



# 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. 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

Living Savior Lutheran Church  
309 Pond Street, Montgomery, TX

Pastor David R. Bailes

Vicar Tim Douglas

Joshua Pillows

Cheryl G. Bailes

Lindsay Oneto

[www.livingsaviortexas.org](http://www.livingsaviortexas.org)

Church Phone: (936) 597-8013

(936) 521-9389 (cell)

(713) 515-2003 (cell)

Director of Worship Arts

Director of Christian Education

Church Office Administrator

Prayer Chain Requests under  
"Contact Us" tab on website

[drbailes@livingsaviortexas.org](mailto:drbailes@livingsaviortexas.org)

[tdouglas@livingsaviortexas.org](mailto:tdouglas@livingsaviortexas.org)

[jmpillows95@livingsaviortexas.org](mailto:jmpillows95@livingsaviortexas.org)

[cgbbailes@livingsaviortexas.org](mailto:cgbbailes@livingsaviortexas.org)

[office@livingsaviortexas.org](mailto:office@livingsaviortexas.org)

## ELDERS OF LIVING SAVIOR

Butch Nye Presiding Elder

(936) 522-7464

Clay Hegar

(903) 275-8413

Earl McCaleb

(936) 445-8923

Roger Bartel

(936) 537-0011

Doug Krenz

(713) 248-9892

John Nye

(936) 672-1139

Thomas Fendia

(832) 877-5493

Doug Lee

(281) 744-0448

Bruce Shutt

(346) 273-5594

## CHURCH COUNCIL OF LIVING SAVIOR

Pete Hames – President

Chris Cheatham – Vice President

Lisa Schoppa – Secretary

LeAnn Way – Treasurer

Mark Lamprecht – Financial Secretary

Joyce Knighten/Carol Patterson —

Family Life

Jack & Peggy Heintschel -

Evangelism

Mike Newman – Head Trustee

Jennifer Steen - Youth

Andrea Mascardo - Christian

Thomas and Shala Fendia

Stewardship

-Contact information available upon request-

## “Cross” Questions

The pages of the Bible are filled with some very human people. In the appointed Readings of the Sundays in Lent, we encounter several. In today’s Old Testament Reading, we hear of Abraham, who followed the guidance of God faithfully to the land of promise. Yet in Genesis, we also read that when in a challenging situation in Egypt, he misrepresented his wife as his sister and profited from the deception. Nicodemus, to whom Jesus explained the Gospel in great detail, kept his association with the Lord a secret. Even at the time of the burial of Jesus after the crucifixion, Nicodemus labors with Joseph of Arimathea “secretly for fear of the Jews” (John 19:38). It is well that we are reminded as we confess in the Nicene Creed that “for us men and for our salvation” our Lord “was made man.” As imperfect and very human people, we are assured by the Spirit that we are loved by God, who knows us as we are, and that we truly are “precious in the sight of the LORD” in life and in death (Psalm 116:15).

## Pre-Service Music

*Arabesque No. 1*  
*Prelude*

Claude Debussy (1862-1918)  
Johann Heinrich Rinck (1770-1846)

## Welcome/Announcements

### We Call Upon the Name of the Lord

- P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

### Opening Sentences

Psalm 25:1, 2a, 4–6, 7b

- P** To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul.  
**C** O my God, in You I trust.
- P** Make me to know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths.  
**C** Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day long.
- P** Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.  
**C** According to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!

### Hymn: “Word of God, Come Down on Earth

LSB 545

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Word of God, come down on earth,<br>Living rain from heav’n descending;<br>Touch our hearts and bring to birth<br>Faith and hope and love unending.<br>Word almighty, we revere You;<br>Word made flesh, we long to hear You. | Saving Word, the world restoring,<br>Speak to us, Your love outpouring.   |
| 2. Word eternal, throned on high,<br>Word that brought to life creation,<br>Word that came from heav’n to die,<br>Crucified for our salvation,   | 4 Word that speaks God’s tender love,<br>One with God beyond all telling,<br>Word that sends us from above,<br>God the Spirit, with us dwelling,<br>Word of truth, to all truth lead us;<br>Word of life, with one bread feed us. |

Text: James Quinn, 1919–2010  
Text: © 1969 OCP Publications. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no.  
110375510

## Confession and Absolution

- P** O God, our Father, we confess that by nature, we are sinful and that in our pride, we have turned away from Your commands.

### Hymn: “To Thee, Omniscient Lord of All”

LSB 613

1. To Thee, omniscient Lord of all,  
In grief and shame I humbly call;  
I see my sins against Thee, Lord,  
The sins of thought and deed and word.  
They press me sore; I cry to Thee:  
O God, be merciful to me!
- P** Forgive us, Lord, for all that we have thought and said and done that is contrary to Your will and Your ways, and forgive us for all those times when we have trusted in our own righteousness instead of relying on Your grace in Christ Jesus, our Redeemer.

### Hymn: “To Thee, Omniscient Lord of All”

LSB 613

2. O Lord, my God, to Thee I pray:  
O cast me not in wrath away!  
Let Thy good Spirit ne’er depart,  
But let Him draw to Thee my heart  
That truly penitent I be:  
O God, be merciful to me!
- P** Forgive us, Lord, for the times when we have not been good stewards of Your great creation and for those times when we have been unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.

### Hymn: “To Thee, Omniscient Lord of All”

LSB 613

3. O Jesus, let Thy precious blood  
Be to my soul a cleansing flood.  
Turn not, O Lord, Thy guest away,  
But grant that justified I may  
Go to my house at peace with Thee:  
O God, be merciful to me!

Text: Magnus Brostrup Landstad, 1802–80; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937, alt. Text: Public domain

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and 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.

**C** Amen.

- P** 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.

**C** Amen.

### Hymn: “God Loved the World So That He Gave”

LSB 571

1. God loved the world so that He gave      That all who would in Him believe  
His only Son the lost to save,      Should everlasting life receive.

**2. Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,  
Who was made flesh and suffered death;  
All then who trust in Him alone  
Are built on this chief cornerstone.**

**4. Be of good cheer, for God's own Son  
Forgives all sins which you have done;  
And, justified by Jesus' blood,  
Your Baptism grants the highest good.**

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opffer, c. 1778, Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## Greeting

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray.

Father in heaven, Your ways are justice and truth; strengthen our faith in Christ that we find in Him alone to be the way and the truth and the life. Keep the eyes of our faith focused on our Redeemer, and in the end, take us to be with 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 Moses

Genesis 12:1–9

The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Choir:** *Must Jesus Bear the Cross*

Joseph Martin

### God Speaks to Us Through the Apostle Paul

Romans 4:1–8, 13–17

What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,  
and whose sins are covered;  
blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” . . .

For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## God Speaks to Us Through His Son

John 3:1–17

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

**G** Glory to You, O Lord.

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**G** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Children's Message

Janice Stille

## Hymn: “God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It”

LSB 594

1. God’s own child, I gladly say it:  
I am baptized into Christ!  
He, because I could not pay it,  
Gave my full redemption price.  
Do I need earth’s treasures many?  
I have one worth more than any  
That brought me salvation free  
Lasting to eternity!

2. Sin, disturb my soul no longer:  
I am baptized into Christ!  
I have comfort even stronger:  
Jesus’ cleansing sacrifice.

Should a guilty conscience seize me  
Since my Baptism did release me  
In a dear forgiving flood,  
Sprinkling me with Jesus’ blood?

3. Satan, hear this proclamation:  
I am baptized into Christ!  
Drop your ugly accusation,  
I am not so soon enticed.  
Now that to the font I’ve traveled,  
All your might has come unraveled,  
And, against your tyranny,  
God, my Lord, unites with me!

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756; tr. Robert E. Voelker, 1957  
Text: © 1991 Robert E. Voelker. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110375510

## Sermon: “Born Again In Baptism”

John 1:1-15

### Catechism

The Second Article

**P** In the Second Article of the Creed, our confession is focused on Jesus, our Redeemer—who God in His love gave to bring us salvation and the promise of eternal life. We speak the words of the Creed:

**C** I believe 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.

**P** What does this mean?

**C** I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord,

who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,

that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,

just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

### Prayer of the Church

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

We pray for all Christians around the world that, as people united in faith, we may witness to the Good News that is ours in Christ Jesus. Lord, bless our learning and our worship and our questioning and our study and our witness as we grow in faith and devotion. O Lord,

**C** hear us for Your mercy’s sake.

- P** We pray for all nations of the earth, that in all places there may be times of lasting peace. We pray for people in lands where there have been upset and strife. And we pray for our own nation that it may know safety and that people may be joyful in their daily lives. O Lord,
- C** **hear us for Your mercy's sake.**
- P** We pray for all those whose labor serves us as we live out our lives under Your watchful eye, especially those in the military, our police personnel, medical workers, and all those whose efforts support the common good. O Lord,
- C** **hear us for Your mercy's sake.**
- P** We pray for the special concerns on our hearts today, including health and family needs, bringing to You our joys, our sorrows, and our hopes, [*including . . .*]. Assure us that the sufferings of this present life are but transitory and that Your grace endures forever. O Lord,
- C** **hear us for Your mercy's sake.**
- P** Joined to the generations of the faithful, we remember all those who have completed their earthly journeys in faith and now rest from their labors. Lord, inspire us by the witness of the faithful from all generations that we may complete our earthly journeys with confidence in Your gracious promises as they did in their lifetimes. We beseech You, O Lord,
- C** **hear us for Your mercy's sake.**
- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

## Hymn: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

LSB 427

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. In the cross of Christ I glory,<br/>Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.<br/>All the light of sacred story<br/>Gathers round its head sublime.</p> <p>2. When the woes of life o'ertake me,<br/>Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,<br/>Never shall the cross forsake me;<br/>Lo, it glows with peace and joy.</p> | <p>3. When the sun of bliss is beaming<br/>Light and love upon my way,<br/>From the cross the radiance streaming<br/>Adds more luster to the day.</p> <p>4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure<br/>By the cross are sanctified;<br/>Peace is there that knows no measure,<br/>Joys that through all time abide.</p> |
|---|---|

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872  
Text: Public domain

## Offering

**Offertory:** *Träumerei* ("Dreaming"), from *Kinderszenen*

Robert Schumann (1810-1856)

## + 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: “Holy God, We Praise Thy Name”

LSB 940

1. Holy God, we praise Thy name;  
Lord of all, we bow before Thee.  
All on earth Thy scepter claim,  
All in heav’n above adore Thee.  
Infinite Thy vast domain,  
Everlasting is Thy reign.

Text: Latin, c. 4th cent.; German version Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1774, Vienna; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820–1900, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** O Lord of heaven and earth, we bless You for the gift of faith that clings to Your gracious promises in Jesus Christ, our Lord, who gave Himself as a perfect sacrifice for us so that our lives may know true peace and endless joy. Invited by Your grace, we come to Your Table with thankful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ’s body and blood that we may continue on as Your people, joyfully awaiting the eternal feast in glory everlasting.
- C** Amen.

## Consecration of the Bread and the Wine

- 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  $\text{✠}$  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  $\text{✠}$  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.

## Pax Domini (Peace of the Lord)

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

## Hymn: “Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

LSB 423

1. Jesus, refuge of the weary,  
Blest Redeemer, whom we love,  
Fountain in life’s desert dreary,  
Savior from the world above:  
Often have Your eyes, offended,  
Gazed upon the sinner’s fall;  
Yet upon the cross extended,  
You have borne the pain of all.
2. Do we pass that cross unheeding,  
Breathing no repentant vow,  
Though we see You wounded, bleeding,  
See Your thorn-encircled brow?  
Yet Your sinless death has brought us  
Life eternal, peace, and rest;  
Only what Your grace has taught us  
Calms the sinner’s deep distress.

**3. Jesus, may our hearts be burning  
With more fervent love for You;  
May our eyes be ever turning  
To behold Your cross anew**

**Till in glory, parted never  
From the blessed Savior's side,  
Graven in our hearts forever,  
Dwell the cross, the Crucified.**

Text: Girolamo Savonarola, 1452–98; tr. Jane F. Wilde, 1826–96, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## **Post-Communion Thanksgiving**

**P** Let us pray.

Gracious God, we thank You for having welcomed us at Your Table, showing Your wondrous love and giving us a foretaste of the feast to come in Your eternal kingdom. Grant that what we have received with our lips we may keep with pure hearts, and that through the gift imparted to us in this present life we may hereafter receive life everlasting. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Savior.

**C** Amen.

## **Benedicamus**

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **Benediction**

**P** The blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit be and remain with you always.

**C** Amen.

## **Hymn: “Christ the Eternal Lord”**

LSB 829

**1. Christ the eternal Lord,  
Whose promise here we claim,  
Whose gifts of grace are freely poured  
On all who name Your name;  
With thankfulness and praise  
We stand before Your throne,  
Intent to serve You all our days  
And make Your glory known.**

**2. Christ the unchanging Word  
To ev'ry passing age,  
Whose timeless teachings still are heard  
Set forth on Scripture's page;  
Transform our thought and mind,  
Enlighten all who read,  
Within Your Word by faith to find  
The bread of life indeed.**

**4. Christ the unfading Light  
Of everlasting day,  
Our Morning Star in splendor bright,  
The Life, the Truth, the Way;  
That light of truth You give  
To servants as to friends,  
Your way to walk, Your life to live,  
Till earth's brief journey ends.**

**5. Christ the ascended King  
Exalted high above,  
Whose praise unending ages sing,  
Whom yet unseen we love;  
When mortal life is past  
Your voice from heaven's throne  
Shall call Your children home at last  
To know as we are known.**

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926  
Text: © 1999 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110375510

The quotation from the Lutheran Confessions is from *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*, second edition; edited by Paul McCain, et al., copyright © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.  
Copyright © 2022 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

#### **Acknowledgments**

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.  
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.