

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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Lenten Midweek Service 2: The Prodigal Son

March 8, 2023

Pre-Service Music

Welcome/Announcements

Call to Worship

Psalm 6:1-9

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

C Amen.

P O Lord, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath.

C Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing; heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled.

P My soul also is greatly troubled. But you, O Lord—how long?

C Turn, O Lord, deliver my life; save me for the sake of your steadfast love.

P For in death there is no remembrance of you; in Sheol who will give you praise?

C I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with my weeping. My eye wastes away because of grief; it grows weak because of all my foes.

P Depart from me, all you workers of evil, for the Lord has heard the sound of my weeping.

C The Lord has heard my plea; the Lord accepts my prayer.

Hymn: Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted.

LSB 451

Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,
see him dying on the tree!

'Tis the Christ, by man rejected;
yes, my soul, 'tis he, 'tis he!

'Tis the long-expected Prophet,
David's Son, yet David's Lord;

Proofs I see sufficient of it:
'tis the true and faithful Word.

Ye who think of sin but lightly
nor suppose the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly,
here its guilt may estimate.

Mark the sacrifice appointed,
see who bears the awful load;
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed,
Son of Man and Son of God.

Here we have a firm foundation,
here the refuge of the lost:
Christ, the Rock of our salvation,
is the name of which we boast;
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded
who on him their hope have built.

Confession and Absolution

P A son received a generous inheritance, but wasted it all in sinful living. He acknowledged his sin and returned in humble repentance, seeking his father's mercy. Our gracious heavenly Father has given us so much, but we too have misused his gifts and wasted what we have received. Humbly repenting of our sins, we ask his forgiveness.

C Heavenly Father, we confess that we are not always thankful for the gifts we have received, the gifts of family, home, work and friends. Daily we choose to follow paths that may lead us away from you, the pathways of our own desires. We turn away from your will and your Word. Have mercy on us and forgive us for the sake of Jesus, who took up the path of the cross for us.

Hymn: Lord Jesus, Think on Me LSB 610

Lord Jesus, think on me and purge away my sin;
From worldly passions set me free and make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me nor let me go astray;
Through darkness and perplexity point out your chosen way.

P The father welcomed his wayward son and celebrated his return, saying, "My son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found." God our heavenly Father has had mercy on us, showering us with his grace through Jesus, who suffered the penalty of death for our sins. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P Heavenly Father, in Jesus' parable, the father showed grace to his lost son, welcoming his son home even though he did not deserve such a welcome. You showed your grace to us when we were lost and dead in sin. You are our Father and, in Christ, you welcome us back to yourself, forgiving our sins for Jesus' sake. So many people are still lost in the darkness of sin. Empower us with your Spirit to share with them the good news that Jesus died to save them and that you are eagerly waiting to welcome them home. Hear our prayer in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Joel 2:12-13

- L “Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

New Testament Reading

Ephesians 2:1-10

- L And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Gospel Reading

Luke 15:11-32

- P And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on

him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

Hymn: Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

LSB 609

**Jesus sinners doth receive;
oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin's delusions live
and from God and heaven wander!
Here is hope for all who grieve:
Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**We deserve but grief and shame,
yet his words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim;
here our ills have perfect healing.
Firmly in these words believe:
Jesus sinners doth receive.**

Sermon: "Grace for the Lost"

Luke 15:11-32

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.

Offering

Offering Video: “Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)” Playback Media

Prayer of the Church

P Almighty God, we give you thanks and praise for your amazing grace in our lives. We were lost in sin and now have been found. We were dead in sin and now we are alive in Christ! Heavenly Father, through Christ you have welcomed us home and will one day welcome us into your eternal presence. Gracious Lord,

C Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, you have redeemed us in Christ. We pray that you would lead us by your Spirit to be faithful in the study of your holy Word. Keep us on the path of righteousness so that we carry out the good works that you have prepared for us. Gracious Lord,

C Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, we pray for those who are suffering with illness and loss and for those who are struggling in matters of faith because they feel lost and alone. Help us to serve them in love and bring them the comfort of the promises of your Word. Gracious Lord,

C Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, so many people are lost and suffering in poverty, hunger and need. Lead us to opportunities to help them with their earthly needs and bring to them the eternal hope that is found only in Jesus. Gracious Lord,

C Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, empower us with your Spirit to be bold witnesses to those who are still lost in the darkness of sin. Help us to share with them the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection. We pray, too, that our words of witness will be supported with our acts of love and service. We want others to know that you are the heavenly Father who waits to welcome them home. Gracious Lord,

C Have mercy on us and hear us our prayer. 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.

Benediction

Ephesians 2:8-10 & 2 Thessalonians 3:16

P For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

C **For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.**

P Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

C **Amen.**

Hymn: Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

LSB 609

Sheep that from the fold did stray
no true shepherd e'er forsaketh;
Weary souls that lost their way
Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh
In his arms that they may live:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

I, a sinner, come to thee
with a penitent confession.
Savior, mercy show to me;
grant for all my sins remission.
Let these words my soul relieve:
Jesus sinners doth receive.