

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.*

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Mark Lamprecht – Financial	Thomas and Shala Fendia	
Joyce Knighten/Carol Patterson — Family Life	-Contact information available upon Stewardship	

Prepared to Make a Defense

We live in a world where we increasingly hear strange ideas. The people we work, play, and live near increasingly consider the truths that our God created this world and redeemed us to be strange. Jesus, Peter, and Paul lived in a world that had some striking similarities to our own. As we live out our Baptism, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to love Jesus and keep His commands. We are urged to always be “prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15). As we do so, it is easy to fall into the angry, divisive, argumentative patterns that we hear in the political realm. Yet, we are called to share our hope with gentleness and respect, so that we keep a clear conscience and suffer for doing good rather than evil.

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

Psalm 119:33–35, 40–41

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P Jesus said, “Because I live, you also will live.”

C In Him we live and move and have our being.

P Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

C We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn: “Thy Strong Word”

LSB 578

1. Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;
At Thy speaking it was done.
For created light we thank Thee,
While Thine ordered seasons run.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end!
3. Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;
Bright with Thine own holiness,
Glorious now, we press toward glory,

And our lives our hopes confess.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end!

4. From the cross Thy wisdom shining
Breaketh forth in conqu’ring might;
From the cross forever beameth
All Thy bright redeeming light.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end!

Confession and Forgiveness

- P** Let us confess our sins to God, our Father, seeking His forgiveness through our risen Savior, Jesus Christ.
- C** **Heavenly Father, creator of all that was, is, and will ever be, we confess to You that we fall short of the calling that we have received from You, as Your dearly loved children. We have struggled to share the reason for the hope we have in You. We have not always responded to others with gentleness and respect. We have failed to live and share the love we have first received from You. Forgive our sins, for Jesus' sake, and lead us to live lives that reflect Your indwelling presence.**
- P** Our God hears our prayers and forgives our sins because of Jesus' perfect life, death, and resurrection. At the command of Christ and through the power of the cross and the empty tomb, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Go in peace!
- C** Alleluia! Amen.

Hymn: "By Grace I'm Saved"

LSB 566

1. By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;
My soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why stagger at this word of promise?
Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?
No! Then this word must true remain:
By grace you too will life obtain.
2. By grace! None dare lay claim to merit;
Our works and conduct have no worth.
God in His love sent our Redeemer,
3. Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;
His death did for our sins atone,
And we are saved by grace alone.
3. By grace God's Son, our only Savior,
Came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of your own merit
That Jesus died your soul to win?
No, it was grace, and grace alone,
That brought Him from His heav'nly throne.

Text: Christian Ludwig Scheidt, 1709–61; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Text: Public domain

Greeting

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.
Ever-living God, in You we live and move and have our being. We praise and thank You for creating us in Your image and for restoring our sin-stained selves to that image through the waters of Baptism. Lead and guide us by Your Spirit, as we live out our days so that others may come to know who You are; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives 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 the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 17:16-31

While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babblers wish to say?"

Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for

“In him we live and move and have our being”;

as even some of your own poets have said,

“For we are indeed his offspring.”

Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Choir: Even Now, Lord

Andrew Culverwell

God Speaks to Us Through the Apostle Peter

1 Peter 3:13-22

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God’s patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

God Speaks to Us Through His Son

John 14:15-21

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message

Janice Stille

Hymn: “Built on the Rock”

LSB 645

- | | |
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| <p>1. Built on the Rock the Church shall stand
Even when steeples are falling.
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land;
Bells still are chiming and calling,
Calling the young and old to rest,
But above all the souls distressed,
Longing for rest everlasting.</p> <p>3. We are God's house of living stones,
Built for His own habitation.
He through baptismal grace us owns
Heirs of His wondrous salvation.</p> | <p>Were we but two His name to tell,
Yet He would deign with us to dwell
With all His grace and His favor.</p> <p>4. Here stands the font before our eyes,
Telling how God has received us.
The altar recalls Christ's sacrifice
And what His Supper here gives us.
Here sound the Scriptures that proclaim
Christ yesterday, today, the same,
And evermore, our Redeemer.</p> |
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Text: Nikolai Fredrik Severin Grundtvig, 1783–1872, abr.; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937, alt.
Text: Public domain

Sermon: “Taking the Stand”

1 Peter 3:13-22

Creed

Nicene 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

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. We pray with boldness and confidence because we know He hears our prayers because Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P Heavenly Father, we praise and thank You for sending Your Son to die and rise again for the sins of the world. We praise and thank You for sending the Holy Spirit, who calls us by the Gospel, gathers us around Your Word and Sacraments, enlightens us with Your truth, and sanctifies and keeps us in the true faith. Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P Creator God, You have created this world and everything in it, as well as each person who lives in it. In You we live and move and have our being, and You continue to provide for our daily needs of body and life. Lead us as we steward the resources and relationships You generously give us. Guide us to see all people as Your masterpieces. Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P O Jesus, You know intimately the challenges we face and the griefs we bear in this life. Hear us as we pray for those who are hurting and grieving, [especially . . .]. Give them strength and healing according to Your good and gracious will. Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P Lord God, You have placed us in a community where there are people who have never known You or who no longer are connected to Your Church. Guide us, as You guided Paul and others, to seize the opportunities to share the reason for the hope we have, doing this with gentleness and respect. Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P Almighty God, You are the King of all creation and the fount of all wisdom. We pray for all the world's leaders and ask that You guide them according to Your will and Your ways as they make decisions for the good of all. We especially pray for our president, vice president, governor, mayor, and all those who work in government. Watch over their lives, and guide them in the decisions they are called to make on our behalf. Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P Gracious God, we thank You for making us male and female and for creating families with a loving father and a mother. We grieve for those who do not experience life according to Your design and for those who experience abandonment, abuse, and neglect. We celebrate with those who experience Your love in their families. Today, we especially remember our mothers. We remember those in whose wombs you knit us together. We remember those You have worked through to provide us comfort, wise counsel, care, and discipline throughout the different stages of our lives. We ask Your blessing on all mothers, that they experience Your love and are shaped by it in their parenting. Christ is risen!

C He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to Him.

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)

✠ 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: “We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God”

LSB 941

- 1. We praise You and acknowledge You, O God, to be the Lord,
The Father everlasting, by all the earth adored.
To You all angel powers cry aloud, the heavens sing,
The cherubim and seraphim their praises to You bring:
“O holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
Your majesty and glory fill the heavens and the earth!”**

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955
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Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Creator of heaven and earth, for You have not only created all people but also freely offered Your gift of salvation to all who receive Your love offered through Jesus' death and resurrection. As Your offspring, we celebrate the gift of salvation that we have through Jesus' redeeming work, as He sacrificed His body and His blood on the cross. Bring us together, as those named by You in Baptism, and forgive, renew, and strengthen us by Your Word and Spirit. Lead us to faithfully eat and drink His body and blood as He commands us to do as we celebrate this feast of forgiveness. Graciously 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.

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 ✠ 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.

Pax Domini (The Peace of the Lord)

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

Hymn: “Children of the Heavenly Father”

LSB 725

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|---|---|
| 1. Children of the heav’nly Father
Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven
Such a refuge e’er was given. | 3. Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth,
And their sorrows all He knoweth. |
| 2. God His own doth tend and nourish;
In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them;
In His mighty arms He bears them. | 4. Though He giveth or He taketh,
God His children ne’er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy. |

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958
Text: Public domain

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

- P** Let us pray.
We thank You, our Creator, for providing for all the needs of our bodies and souls. We especially thank You for refreshing us through the gift of Your grace that You give us in this Meal. Strengthen us as Your offspring and lead us to love others; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and rules with You 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: “Preserve Your Word, O Savior”

LSB 658

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|---|--|
| 1. Preserve Your Word, O Savior,
To us this latter day,
And let Your kingdom flourish;
Enlarge Your Church, we pray. | O keep our faith from failing;
Keep hope’s bright star aglow.
Let nothing from truth turn us
While living here below. |
|---|--|

3. **Preserve, O Lord, Your Zion,
Bought dearly with Your blood;
Protect what You have chosen
Against the hellish flood.
Be always our defender
When dangers gather round;
When all the earth is crumbling,
Safe may Your Church be found.**
4. **Preserve Your Word and preaching,
The truth that makes us whole,
The mirror of Your glory,
The pow'r that saves the soul.**

**Oh, may this living water,
This dew of heav'nly grace,
Sustain us while here living
Until we see Your face.**

5. **Preserve in wave and tempest
Your storm-tossed little flock;
Assailed by wind and weather,
May it endure each shock.
Stand at the helm, our pilot,
And set the course aright;
Then we will reach the harbor
In Your eternal light.**

Text: Andreas Gryphius, 1616–64; tr. William J. Schaefer, 1891–1976, alt.
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