

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.

| OUR CONTACT INFORMATION | | |
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| Chris Cheatham – Vice President | | Mike Newman – Head Trustee |
| Lisa Schoppa – Secretary | | Jennifer Steen - Youth |
| LeAnn Way – Treasurer | | Andrea Mascardo - Christian |
| Mark Lamprecht – Financial Secretary | | Thomas and Shala Fendia – Stewardship |
| Joyce Knighten/Carol Patterson – Family Life | | |

MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 1

LOOK UP! THE STAR OF PEACE DRAWS NEAR

The season of Advent is filled with the relentless seeking of things. Shopping is in full swing, and we hear the promise again and again: If we have all the right stuff, buy all the perfect gifts, attend all the posh parties, and decorate with all the trendy decorations, then we will feel complete and at peace. Counter this line of thinking with what God's Word teaches us about contentment. The apostle Paul writes, "Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content" (1 Timothy 6:6–8). As we pause during this first week of Advent and pray for the Lord to stir up our hearts for the arrival of His Son, we remember the story of the ancient Magi, who followed the star and found contentment in the King who had been born to save them. Jesus now invites us also to follow Him and receive from Him that same peace, that "godliness with contentment," which the Magi also received.

Pre-Service Music

Welcome/Announcements

Opening Sentences

Isaiah 9:6; Philippians 4:7

- P** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
C and the government shall be upon His shoulder,
- P** and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
C **Mighty God,**
- P** Everlasting Father,
C **Prince of Peace.**
- P** The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
C **Amen.**

Hymn: "Savior of the Nations, Come"

LSB 332

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| 1. Savior of the nations, come, Virgin's Son, make here Your home! Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth. | In her womb this truth was shown: God was there upon His throne. |
| 2. Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh— Woman's offspring, pure and fresh. | 4. Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and kingly hall; God of God, yet fully man, His heroic course began. |
| 3. Here a maid was found with child, Yet remained a virgin mild. | 5. God the Father was His source, Back to God He ran His course. Into hell His road went down, Back then to His throne and crown. |

Psalm

- P** Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock!
C You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.
- P** Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,
C stir up Your might and come to save us!
- P** Restore us, O God;
C let Your face shine, that we may be saved!
- P** O LORD God of hosts,
C how long will You be angry with Your people's prayers?
- P** You have fed them with the bread of tears
C and given them tears to drink in full measure.
- P** You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,
C and our enemies laugh among themselves.
- P** Restore us, O God of hosts;
C let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

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, that by the light of Your Holy Word, we may be drawn to Jesus and lay our lives before Him in worship, receiving from Him the gift of perfect peace. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Prince of Peace, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Series Hymn: “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

LSB 347

1. “Comfort, comfort ye My people,
Speak ye peace,” thus saith our God;
“Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover
And her warfare now is over.”
2. Yea, her sins our God will pardon,
Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved His anger
He no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many_a day,
Now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness
Into ever-springing gladness.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

First Reading

1 Timothy 6:6–9

P A reading from 1 Timothy, the sixth chapter.

⁶Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, ⁷for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse

Psalms 24:7

P Alleluia. Lift up your heads, O gates!

C And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Alleluia.

Second Reading

Matthew 2:1–2, 9–10

P A reading from Matthew, the second chapter.

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.”

⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Readings Response

P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

Hymn: “As with Gladness Men of Old”

LSB 397

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| 1. As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold; As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright; So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led by Thee. | 3. As they offered gifts most rare At Thy cradle, rude and bare, So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin’s alloy, All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav’nly King. |
| 2. As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to Thy lowly bed, There to bend the knee before Thee, whom heav’n and earth adore; So may we with willing feet Ever seek Thy mercy seat. | 4. Holy Jesus, ev’ry day Keep us in the narrow way; And when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glory hide. |

5. In the heav'nly country bright
Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,

Thou its sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt.
Text: Public domain

Sermon: “More Than Content at Christmas”

1 Timothy 6 & Matthew 2

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)

Magnificat (Song of Mary)

Luke 1:46–55

P Mary rejoiced that the Lord was coming to earth, drawing all people to Himself, the true star of Bethlehem, our Prince of Peace. Let us now use her song of praise to rejoice in our Advent Savior.

C My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;

P for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden. For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.

C For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name; and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.

P He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

C He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.

P He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.

C He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior!

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Collect (Prayer) for Peace

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works,

C give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give,

P that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies,

C may live in peace and quietness;

- P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Benediction

Matthew 2:10

- P** When [the Magi] saw the star,
- C** they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.
- P** Go forth then, children of God, with the light of Christ leading your way, rejoicing in His presence and knowing His perfect peace. The blessing of almighty God—the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit—be with you and remain with you always.
- C** Amen.

Hymn: “Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go”

LSB 920

1. Forth in the peace of Christ we go;
Christ to the world with joy we bring;
Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips,
Christ in our hearts, the world’s true king.
2. King of our hearts, Christ makes us kings;
Kingship with Him His servants gain;
With Christ the Servant-Lord of all,
Christ’s world we serve to share Christ’s reign.
3. Priests of the world, Christ sends us forth
This world of time to consecrate,
This world of sin by grace to heal,
Christ’s world in Christ to re-create.

Text: James Quinn, 1919–2010
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