

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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<u>CHURCH COUNCIL OF LIVING SAVIOR</u>		
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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	-Contact information available upon request-	

We Are Waiting Because He Is Patient

Advent is the season of waiting! As we await Christ's coming again in power and glory, we know that the time we are given before that great Day is due to the Lord's patience. "The Lord . . . is patient toward you," says Peter (2 Peter 3:9). Why? More time before Christ's return as King and Judge means more opportunities for us to share the life-giving Gospel with all the world. As people hear the message of Christ, repenting of their sin and turning to Him in faith, more souls will be brought into God's eternal kingdom. And because He is working His wonders of salvation, we rejoice in Him and receive from Him all He seeks to give!

Welcome/Announcements

Pre-Service Music

Invocation

- V** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 27:13–14; 130:5

- V** I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!
C **Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!**
- V** I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
C **and in His word I hope.**

Hymn: "Prepare the Royal Highway"

LSB 343

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| <p>1. Prepare the royal highway;
The King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
A level road appear!
Then greet the King of Glory
Foretold in sacred story: <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>Ref. Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfills God's Word!</p> <p>2. God's people, see Him coming:
Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before Him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!</p> | <p>God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>3. Then fling the gates wide open
To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before Him!
All nations, now adore Him! <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>4. His is no earthly kingdom;
It comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
For kindness so abounding: <i>Refrain</i></p> |
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Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.
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Confession and Absolution

Based on Psalm 130

- V** With hope in the Lord's promises of renewal by His Word and Spirit, let us together confess our sins to Him.
- C** **Out of the depths I cry to You, Lord!**

V Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to my pleas for mercy!

C **If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, I would have no hope.**

V But with You there is forgiveness, therefore we place our trust in You.

C **Restore us, Lord God, and set us free from our sins.**

V Renew us in Your hope, that we may wait for Your salvation.

C **Because of Your steadfast love for us in Christ, redeem us from all our iniquities. Amen.**

V As we wait for Jesus' final coming, we place our hope and our confidence in the promises of His Word and find our home in the presence of His Spirit. Confessing our sins and turning away from them through lives of repentance, we are assured again this day of the Lord's steadfast love and plentiful redemption for us. Rejoice, for your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Hymn: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

LSB 790

- 1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!**
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear
Now to His temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–80; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

Greeting

V The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

V Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son,

C **that by His coming we may be found in Him, fully redeemed and at peace;**

V through the same Jesus Christ, 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 Isaiah

Isaiah 40:1–11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it;

surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Choir "Advent Gift"

Paul Liebergen

God Speaks to Us Through the Apostle Peter

2 Peter 3:8–14

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

God Speaks to Us Through His Son

Mark 1:1–8

V The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,
the voice of one crying in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,'"

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

V This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

LSB 344

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| <p>1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!</p> <p>2. Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.</p> <p>3. We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward;</p> | <p>Without Thy grace we waste away
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.</p> <p>4. Lay on the sick Thy healing hand
And make the fallen strong to stand;
Show us the glory of Thy face
Till beauty springs in ev'ry place.</p> <p>△ 5. All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
Whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.</p> |
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Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite
Text: Public domain

Sermon: "Waiting to Hear the Voice"

Isaiah 40:1-5

Creed

Nicene Creed

☑ 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

☑ As we wait in love for the coming of our Lord, let us together, as His advent people, bring our prayers before Him.

Father in heaven, You prepare a heavenly home for all who trust in You and come into Your presence through faith in Your Son. By His coming into this world to save us from the devastation of our sins, dying and rising again to make us eternally Yours, we have been reconciled to You. We praise You, Father, for this amazing gift of love and ask that Your Holy Spirit keep Your steadfast love secure in our hearts throughout our days of waiting. Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!

☑ To You alone our prayers we bring!

V Knowing that You have come once into this world, Lord Jesus, we are confident that You will come again. On that glorious Day when we are all gathered before You, when every knee will bow to You and every tongue confess Your holy name, we will receive the restoration of all things in heaven and on earth that Your Word has promised. Until Your final coming, O Lord, keep us secure in our salvation. Remind us that our waiting is because of Your patience, and that You call us to use this time we have been given to share Your precious Gospel with the world You died and rose again to save. Stir up the hearts of all who hear Your Word this day, that many will come to saving faith and experience the comfort of Your presence in their lives. Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!

C **To You alone our prayers we bring!**

V As wanderers in this land, O Lord, we experience various types of brokenness and pain, suffering and grief. We lift before You in prayer those we love, who are also loved by You. For those longing for food and shelter, grant Your mercy. For those needing protection and peace, grant Your Spirit. We pray for those in our families and connected to our family of faith who have special concerns of body and spirit, [*especially . . .*]. Grant that all who wander find their home in You alone, O Lord. Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!

C **To You alone our prayers we bring!**

V Comforting Spirit, fill our land, our homes, our workplaces, our schools, and all our interactions with others with Your blessings. Allow this season of waiting and preparation to refocus our hearts and minds upon Your mission for our congregation and for us as individual members of this household of faith. Stir up our hearts to make known to all the wonders You have done, so that more souls may be brought to saving faith and many would join with us in saying, “Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!”

C **To You alone our prayers we bring!**

V Confident in our coming King and Savior, we entrust our prayers into the good and gracious hands of our sovereign God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who lives and reigns, both 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)

✠ 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.**

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

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."

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: "I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"

LSB 618

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| <p>1. I come, O Savior, to Thy table,
For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able
To satisfy and make me whole: <i>Refrain</i></p> <p>Ref. Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!</p> <p>2. Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning
That sinners may salvation see
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning;
So I, a sinner, come to Thee. <i>Refrain</i></p> | <p>3. Unworthy though I am, O Savior,
Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never,
For Thou my faithful shepherd art:
<i>Refrain</i></p> <p>5. What higher gift can we inherit?
It is faith's bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and spirit,
The covenant of hope and grace.
<i>Refrain</i></p> |
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Post-Communion Thanksgiving

2 Peter 3:14

- V** Let us pray.
O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in steadfast love sent Your only-begotten Son into this world of sin, we thank You that for His sake You look upon us "without spot or blemish, and at peace."
- C** We praise You for Your patience and rejoice in Your redemption!

☑ We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☑ **Amen.**

Benediction

Psalm 130:5; Numbers 6:24–26

☑ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

☑ **and in His word I hope.**

☑ 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.

☑ **Amen.**

Hymn: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

LSB 338

1. **Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev’ry nation,
Joy of ev’ry longing heart.**

2. **Born Thy people to deliver;
Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.
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