



# WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS!

**LIVING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH** welcomes you as you join with us in worship this evening. 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.

<b><u>OUR CONTACT INFORMATION</u></b>		
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<b><u>CHURCH COUNCIL OF LIVING SAVIOR</u></b>		
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Joyce Knighten/Carol Patterson – Family Life	<i>-Contact information available upon request-</i>	

## Peace to All, Near and Far

As we pause to contemplate His Word during this second week of Advent, Jesus comes to us where we are and says, “My peace I give to you” (John 14:27). This peace does not come through our attempts to remove ourselves from reality or rearrange the broken pieces of our past. No, it is only by the grace of God that we now receive His peace, His forgiveness, and His restoration through faith in His promises. Gathering us from far and near, no matter who we are or where we have been, our Advent King gives us His peace by means of His death and resurrection. When we trust in Him, we will not simply feel better with a short-term stillness; we will stand fully forgiven by Jesus and at permanent peace with our God.

## 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: “Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear”

LSB 908

1. Lord, open now my heart to hear,  
And through Your Word to me draw near;  
Let me Your Word e’er pure retain;  
Let me Your child and heir remain.

2. Your Word inspires my heart within;  
Your Word grants healing from my sin;

Your Word has pow’r to guide and bless;  
Your Word brings peace and happiness.

△ 3. To God the Father, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit, Three in One,  
Shall glory, praise, and honor be  
Now and throughout eternity.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; (sts. 1, 3): tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.; (st. 2): tr. Mark A. Jeske, 1952  
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## Psalm

Psalm 85:1–9

**P** Lord, You were favorable to Your land;  
**C** You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**P** You forgave the iniquity of Your people;  
**C** You covered all their sin.

- P** You withdrew all Your wrath;  
**C** **You turned from Your hot anger.**
- P** Restore us again, O God of our salvation,  
**C** **and put away Your indignation toward us!**
- P** Will You be angry with us forever?  
**C** **Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?**
- P** Will You not revive us again,  
**C** **that Your people may rejoice in You?**
- P** Show us Your steadfast love, O Lord,  
**C** **and grant us Your salvation.**
- P** Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,  
**C** **for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly.**
- P** Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,  
**C** **that glory may dwell in our land.**

## 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 healed of our brokenness, rejoicing in Him who alone is our 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

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

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

## First Reading

Ephesians 2:12–18

- P** A reading from Ephesians, the second chapter.

Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he

himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Verse

Luke 3:4b, 6

**P** Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight;

**C** all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.

## Second Reading

John 14:25–31

**P** A reading from John, the fourteenth chapter.

“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.

**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: “It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

LSB 366

1. It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,  
From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heav’nly music floats  
O’er all the weary world.

Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hov’ring wing,  
And ever o’er its babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing.

4. For lo, the days have come to pass  
By prophets seen of old,  
When down into the circling years  
Came Christ as was foretold.  
His word of peace shall to the earth  
God’s ancient promise bring,  
And all who take this gift will hear  
The song the angels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–76, alt.  
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## 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 to reconcile us to the Father, bringing us peace through His blood. 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

**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

John 14:27

- P** Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.
- G** **Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”**
- P** Go forth then, children of God, reconciled by Him who fulfills God’s Word, 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.
- G** **Amen.**

## Hymn: “Prepare the Royal Highway”

LSB 343

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: *Refrain*
- Ref.** Hosanna to the Lord,  
For He fulfills God’s Word!
2. God’s people, see Him coming:  
Your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before Him!  
Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God’s promise will not fail you!  
No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*
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! *Refrain*
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: *Refrain*

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.  
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