



# 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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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 and Giving Witness**

Advent is the season of waiting! As we wait, we have a special job to do. We joyfully get ready for Jesus' arrival by remembering the ministry of John the Baptist, who came as a witness to Christ, the light of the world. John himself was not the light, nor was he the centerpiece of God's plan to save the world; no, John's life was dedicated to preparing the way before the Lord and to get people ready for Jesus coming to the rescue of His people. In many ways, we are invited to be like John. Through our personal witness to Christ in our interpersonal relationships with others, God is working through us so that others will come to know His Son. Our goal is not only to trust in Jesus for ourselves but also to let the world know that He is coming to save them too. And His soon-to-come arrival will be well worth the wait!

### **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 40:1–3

**P** I waited patiently for the LORD;

**C** He inclined to me and heard my cry.

**P** He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog,

**C** and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

**P** He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

**C** Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

### **Hymn: “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”**

LSB 341

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!

Behold, the King of glory waits.

The King of kings is drawing near;

The Savior of the world is here.

Life and salvation He doth bring;

Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.

To God the Father raise

Your joyful songs of praise.

2. A righteous Helper comes to thee;

His chariot is humility,

His kingly crown is holiness,

His scepter, pity in distress.

The end of all our woe He brings;

Therefore the earth is glad and sings.

To Christ the Savior raise

Your grateful hymns of praise.

5. Redeemer, come and open wide

My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!

O enter with Thy grace divine;

Thy face of mercy on me shine.

Thy Holy Spirit guide us on

Until our glorious goal is won.

Eternal praise and fame

We offer to Thy name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## Confession and Absolution

1 Thessalonians 5:23–24

- P** That we may rejoice in the great things our forgiving God does for us, let us together confess our sins before Him.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we do and by what we fail to do. Instead of looking to Jesus and following Him in faith, we have gone astray by disobeying Your Word. Instead of giving bold witness to You, we have kept silent and withheld Your grace from others. For the sake of our Savior and King, have mercy on us. Forgive us and restore us. Guide us and renew us. Help us to walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.” Our faithful God hears our prayers and answers them, removing our sins from us and declaring us blameless in His sight through faith in Jesus Christ. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

## Hymn: “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

LSB 803

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Joyful, joyful we adore Thee,<br/>God of glory, Lord of love!<br/>Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,<br/>Praising Thee, their sun above.<br/>Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,<br/>Drive the gloom of doubt away.<br/>Giver of immortal gladness,<br/>Fill us with the light of day.</p> | <p>△ 3. Thou art giving and forgiving,<br/>Ever blessing, ever blest,<br/>Wellspring of the joy of living,<br/>Ocean-depth of happy rest!<br/>Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,<br/>Fountainhead of love divine:<br/>Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit!<br/>Joyful, we by grace are Thine!</p> |
|---|--|

Text: Henry Van Dyke, 1852–1933, alt.  
Tune: Ludwig Van Beethoven (1770-1827)

## Greeting

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

## Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.  
Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers.
- C** **Enable our hearts to believe and our mouths to confess Your saving name;**
- P** for You live and reign 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 Isaiah

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise

instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. . . .

For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**(10:45) Choir: "Advent Gift"**

Paul Liebergen

## God Speaks to Us Through the Apostle Paul

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## God Speaks to Us Through His Son

John 1:6–8, 19–28

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

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .

This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Children's Message

### Hymn of the Day: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

LSB 344

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry<br>Announces that the Lord is nigh;<br>Awake and hearken, for he brings<br>Glad tidings of the King of kings!           | 3. We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,<br>Our refuge and our great reward;<br>Without Thy grace we waste away<br>Like flow'rs that wither and decay. |
| 2. Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;<br>Make straight the way for God within,<br>And let us all our hearts prepare<br>For Christ to come and enter there. | △ 5. All praise, eternal Son, to Thee<br>Whose advent sets Thy people free,<br>Whom with the Father we adore<br>And Holy Spirit evermore.          |

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite  
Text: Public domain

### Sermon: "Identity Crisis "

John 1:1, 6-8, 19-28

### 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

1 Thessalonians 5:16–17; Psalm 105:1–4

**P** Because it is our Father's will for His children to pray, let us "rejoice always, pray without ceasing," giving thanks in all circumstances.

Gracious Father, when the time had fully come, You sent Your Son into our world to bear our sin and be our Savior. By His suffering and death, by His resurrection and ascension, by His reign at Your right hand and promise to come again, we are given joyful hearts and confidently bring our prayers before Your throne of grace. Your kingdom is the eternal kingdom, O God, and we are blessed to witness to all peoples the saving work You have accomplished in Christ, our Lord and King.

**☩** Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name;  
**☩** make known His deeds among the peoples!

**P** Mighty God, stretch forth Your hand and defend Your people from all effects of sin and death, giving victory over the enemy of darkness by shining into our world the light of Your truth. Work in our midst as the mighty fortress of our lives, providing protection to those who labor for the benefit of others and to those who wear the uniform of our land. Grant wisdom to those who make, administer, and judge our laws, and reach into every troubled corner of the world to bestow upon us Your mercy and peace.

Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;

**C** **tell of all His wondrous works!**

**P** Savior of the nations, by our Baptism into Your death and resurrection, You clothe us with Your righteousness and fill us with Your Spirit. You have enabled our hearts to believe and our mouths to confess Your saving name. Lord Jesus, take away from us any fear or doubt, any hesitancy or reluctance to share with others the hope that is within us. Open doors of opportunity for us to be like John the Baptist, giving faithful testimony to You and preparing the way for Your coming kingdom.

Glory in His holy name;

**C** **let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!**

**P** Great Physician of body and soul, take great care of all those who are suffering in physical pain, mental illness, emotional stress, and broken relationships. Comfort Your people who are sad and lonely. Warm all troubled hearts with the assurance of Your never-failing presence. Grant wholeness and healing to those in need, [*especially . . .*]. We give You thanks, Lord God, in all circumstances, including our struggles, for we know that You are working all things together for the good of those who love You and have been called according to Your purpose.

Seek the LORD and His strength;

**C** **seek His presence continually!**

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, waiting in joyful expectation for Your coming kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**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 God of Sabaoth;  
 heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.  
 Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
 Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
 Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and have given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.
- C** In Your boundless mercy You sent Your witness, John the Baptist, to point us toward Christ and His coming kingdom.
- P** With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## **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.

## **The Words of Our Lord**

- 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  $\text{✠}$  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  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## **Pax Domini (Peace of the Lord)**

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

## **Hymn: "The Infant Priest Was Holy Born"**

LSB 624 (tune of LSB 920)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. The infant Priest was holy born<br/>                     For us unholy and forlorn;<br/>                     From fleshly temple forth came He,<br/>                     Anointed from eternity.</p>                  | <p>3. The holy Lamb undaunted came<br/>                     To God's own altar lit with flame;<br/>                     While weeping angels hid their eyes,<br/>                     This Priest became a sacrifice.</p>            |
| <p>2. This great High Priest in human flesh<br/>                     Was icon of God's righteousness.<br/>                     His hallowed touch brought sanctity;<br/>                     His hand removed impurity.</p> | <p>6. The body of God's Lamb we eat,<br/>                     A priestly food and priestly meat;<br/>                     On sin-parched lips the chalice pours<br/>                     His quenching blood that life restores.</p> |



## Post-Communion Thanksgiving

**P** Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**(10:45) Choir: “The Lord Bless You and Keep You”**

## 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: “Christ Be My Leader”

LSB 861

1. Christ be my Leader by night as by day;  
Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.  
Gladly I follow, my future His care,  
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.
2. Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth,  
Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.  
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand,  
Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.
3. Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;  
Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.  
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain  
Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926  
Text: © 1964, renewed 1992 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110375510

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