

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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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-	

Resounding Psalms for Advent: Returned

We do not often emphasize the psalms during the Advent season, instead being eager to read about the prophecies, anticipating Jesus' coming. Yet the psalms are God's Word during terrible times to people psalms as we use them to prepare to celebrate our Lord's birth with open eyes and ears.

Today we focus on Psalm 126, which speaks of the exiles that returned to Zion. And our joy shall be greater, for we will return to the new Eden, God's great garden!

Pre-Service Music

Welcome/Announcements

Opening Sentences

V The Spirit and the Church cry out:

C Come, Lord Jesus.

V All those who await His appearance pray:

C Come, Lord Jesus.

V The whole creation pleads:

C Come, Lord Jesus.

Hymn: "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"

LSB 352

1. Let the earth now praise the Lord,
Who has truly kept His word
And at last to us did send
Christ, the sinner's help and friend.
2. What the fathers most desired,
What the prophets' heart inspired,
What they longed for many_a year,
Stands fulfilled in glory here.
3. Abram's promised great reward,
Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord—

Him of twofold race behold—
Truly came, as long foretold.

4. As Your coming was in peace,
Quiet, full of gentleness,
Let the same mind dwell in me
Which is Yours eternally.
6. Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–59; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

Thanksgiving for Light

V Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

✠ PSALMODY ✠

- ☑ This Advent we are using each week's resounding psalm to enliven our faith and worship. The hymn, "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns" frames Psalm 126, and we respond to the psalm with an antiphon on that tune.

Hymn: "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns"

LSB 348

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| <p>1. The King shall come when morning
dawns
And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills
And life to joy awakes.</p> <p>2. Not as of old a little child,
To bear and fight and die,</p> | <p>But crowned with glory like the sun
That lights the morning sky.</p> <p>3. Oh, brighter than the rising morn
When Christ, victorious, rose
And left the lonesome place of death
Despite the rage of foes.</p> |
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Psalm

Psalm 126

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negeb! Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

Hymn: "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns"

LSB 348

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| <p>4. Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
Shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes
And we shall see His face.</p> | <p>5. The King shall come when morning
dawns
And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
Come quickly, King of kings!</p> |
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Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925, alt.
Text: Public domain

✠ READINGS ✠

First Reading

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 O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

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 O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

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

Sermon: "Our Peace Rests on Him Alone"

Isaiah 9:6

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)

Prayers

V Let us pray.

O Lord who in the past returned Your people to the Promised Land, hear us as we pray for ourselves and all the Church: Strengthen our hope in all Your gracious promises, and increase faith and love among us and toward the world. Use us as fits Your gracious plans for them.

C **Hear our prayer, O Lord. Return us to trust all Your promises, and stir up our hearts to serve You.**

V Hear us as we pray for all who have been forgotten by the world's commerce: Surround with faith-filled people all who are hungry and homeless, the many who are migrants and refugees, people dealing with sudden ills and long-term disabilities, and all who are in mourning. Use us as fits Your gracious plans for them.

C **Hear our prayer, O Lord. Return us to trust all Your promises, and stir up our hearts to serve You.**

V In the midst of a dark world You send us. Renew in us true faith and peace, faithfulness in worship, a spiritual vitality, and a confidence in Your promise of eternal life. Grant that many join us in fruitful worship. Use us as fits Your gracious plans for them.

C **Hear our prayer, O Lord. Return us to trust all Your promises, and stir up our hearts to serve You.**

V By the blessed coming of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who gave us His own righteousness, grant these our prayers, for we pray in His name.

C **Amen.**

Collect (Prayer) for Today

V Return us to Your eternal Eden, Lord our God,

C **and grant us such a sense of joy that the people around us may seek You and Your gracious blessings;**

V through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Collect (Prayer) from Sunday

V Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers

C **and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation;**

V for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Luther's Evening Prayer

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

Lord's Prayer

G 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.

Benedicamus

V Let us bless the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Benediction

V The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

G Amen.

Hymn: “Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising”

LSB 375 (tune of LSB 597)

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| 1. Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing His love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom. | 3. Jacob's star in all its splendor
Beams with comfort sweet and tender,
Forcing Satan to surrender,
Breaking all the pow'rs of hell. |
| 2. Christ, from heav'n to us descending
And in love our race befriending;
In our need His help extending,
Saved us from the wily foe. | 6. Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,
From Your lowly manger cheer us,
Gently lead us and be near us
Till we join Your choir above. |

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

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Dismissal

V Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

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