

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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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 at Peace

Advent is the season of waiting! Soon and very soon our waiting and planning for Christmas celebrations will come to their close, and we will rejoice in Christ's coming to save us. Such waiting and planning for Christmas can also guide us as we prepare for Christ's final advent, His ultimate coming, when He returns on the Last Day. Until that glorious Day, when all portions of God's plan for our salvation will be accomplished, we are blessed with the peace "which surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7). Such peace is an amazing gift that the Lord gave to the virgin Mary, the mother of our Lord, when she received God's Word from the angel Gabriel and then carried our salvation in her womb, delivering Jesus into the world. "Let it be to me according to your word," she said (Luke 1:38). May we say the same as we gather this day and, like Mary, receive the peace that God alone can give.

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.

G Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 37:7a, 34a; Isaiah 30:18

P Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him.

G Wait for the LORD and keep His way.

P The LORD waits to be gracious to you.

G He exalts Himself to show mercy to you.

P For the LORD is a God of justice;

G blessed are all those who wait for Him.

Hymn: "Joy to the World"

LSB 387

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
Tune: Georg Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Confession and Absolution

- P** So that we may experience the peace of sins forgiven, let us come before our Lord with humble hearts as we confess together:
- C** **Gracious Father, we all have sinned and fallen short of Your glory. By what we have done and by what we have failed to do, we have broken Your commands and have not accomplished Your plans for our lives.**
- P** Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, You alone give us the redemption and the restoration, the absolution and the ability to follow Your Word. Through the work of Jesus, the Word made flesh, do for us what is impossible apart from You.
- C** **Forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that we may follow Your plan for our lives and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** In the mercy of our gracious Father, Jesus came into this world, journeying from the crib to the cross, from the tomb and to His throne of glory in order to secure our forgiveness according to God's plan of salvation. Receive His assurance of pardon this day as we celebrate Jesus' coming to save us. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

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 and help us by Your might,
- C** **that we may experience the peace of knowing all things are possible with You;**
- 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 the Prophet Samuel

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and

be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. . . .
And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Choir: *“A Christmas Echo”*

Patrick Liebergen

God Speaks to Us Through the Apostle Paul

Romans 16:25–27

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

God Speaks to Us Through His Son

Luke 1:26–38

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Children’s Message

Cheryl Bailes

Sermon “Rejoice in Waiting”

Luke 1:26-38

Refrain

My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spir - it re -

joic - es in God, my Sav - ior. My soul mag-ni-fies the

Lord, and my spir - it re - joic - es in God, my Sav - ior.

1. *For He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.
For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.*
2. *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. Refrain:*

Refrain

My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spir - it re -

joic - es in God, my Sav - ior. My soul mag-ni-fies the

Lord, and my spir - it re - joic - es in God, my Sav - ior.

3. He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.
4. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.
He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.
5. 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. **Refrain.**

Creed

C 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.

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Prayer of the Church

Romans 5:1–2; Philippians 4:7; John 14:27; Luke 2:14

P In the peace of Christ, our coming King, let us bring our prayers before our gracious God.

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand.

P For God's amazing plan of salvation to reach into our hearts, that all those for whom Christ Jesus came into this world may know the hope, love, joy, and peace of sins forgiven; for perfect peace to reign in the hearts and minds of all who believe, that we may be the Lord's instruments of peace in a world filled with troubles; in peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,

C will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

P For the outpouring of the Spirit of peace upon the Church of Christ Jesus, that all who wait for His appearing would be strengthened in their faith and renewed in their boldness to confess His saving name before all the world; for all those who doubt God's plan for their lives, that like the virgin Mary, the Holy Spirit would make His Word come alive in them, transforming them from the inside out; in peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.

C Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

P For the comfort and peace of Jesus to touch the lives of all who experience suffering, [*including . . .*]; for Christ's peace to dwell among us as we celebrate His coming to save us, looking forward to the ultimate Day in which He will come again in all power and glory; in peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P With hearts of gratitude and praise, we join with the hosts of heaven and say:

C **"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"**

P Into Your hands, O gracious God, we entrust our prayers, through Jesus Christ, our King and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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 ✠

Hymn: "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

LSB 367

1. Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth. *Refrain*

**Ref. Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.
Text: Public domain

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P In Your great mercy, O Father, You sent the angel Gabriel to bring Your Word to the virgin Mary, calming her fears and filling her with Your peace.

C **With grateful hearts, we receive Your Word again this day. Favor us with Your grace that we would trust our Prince of Peace and receive Him who comes to us in His body and blood.**

P Hear us as we pray in His name and in the words 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 ✠ 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.”

Pax Domini (Peace of the Lord)

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

G Amen.

Hymn: “Arise, O Christian People”

LSB 354

1. Arise, O Christian people!
Prepare yourselves today;
Prepare to greet the Savior,
Who takes your sins away.
To us by grace alone
The truth and light were given;
The promised Lord from heaven
To all the world is shown.
2. Prepare the way before Him;
Prepare for Him the best.
Cast out what would offend Him,
This great, this heav’nly guest.

Make straight, make plain the way:
The lowly valleys raising,
The heights of pride abasing,
His path all even lay.

3. The humble heart and lowly
God raises up on high;
Beneath His feet in terror
The haughty soul shall lie.
The heart sincere and right,
That heeds God’s invitation
And makes true preparation—
It is the Lord’s delight.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt.
Text: Public domain

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Benediction

Romans 16:27; Numbers 6:24–26

P May our gracious God strengthen your hearts, for His plan of salvation has been revealed to us in the coming of His Son, our Savior and King.

G “To the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.”

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.

G Amen.

Hymn: “Hark the Glad Sound”

LSB 349

1. Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne
And ev’ry voice a song.
2. He comes the pris’ners to release,
In Satan’s bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

**3. He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor.**

**4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved name.**

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51
Text: Public domain

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