



# 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.

**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. Alcohol-free wine is in the center of the wine trays, and gluten-free wafers are in the bread chalis for those in need of these items.*

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## FAMILY CHRISTMAS SERVICE

### PEACE CAME TO EARTH

#### Pre-Service Music

#### Welcome/Announcements

#### Invocation

☒ In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

☒ Amen.

## Opening Sentences

Isaiah 9:6

**V** For to us a child is born,

**C** to us a son is given;

**V** and the government shall be upon His shoulder,

**C** and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

**V** Mighty God, Everlasting Father,

**C** Prince of Peace.

## Hymn: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

LSB 379

1. O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; Come and behold Him Born the king of angels:

**Ref.** O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

2. Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal, Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes; Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing!  
*Refrain*

3. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God In the highest: *Refrain*

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.; John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786  
Text: Public domain

## ✠ THE PROMISE OF PEACE ✠

**Trent:** In the beginning, God created a perfect world filled with sparkling stars, majestic mountains, verdant valleys, and amazing animals. There was no sickness, no pain, and no death. The people God had made lived at peace with the animals, with each other, and with God. Then one day, the people were tempted to doubt God's Word and to question the gifts He had already given them. They disobeyed God and took what God had commanded them not to take, bringing sin into the world.

**Kenna:** When sin entered the perfect world God had made, perfect peace was lost. The man and woman hid from God and blamed each other and God for what they had done. Peace was replaced by shame and hurt and sickness and death. But God did not give up on the people He had made! He promised to send a Savior to bring back the peace that had been lost.

**Lyric:** We read about God's first promise of a Savior in Genesis 3:15, when He spoke judgment on the serpent who had deceived Adam and Eve: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." The Savior would take upon Himself the punishment that man deserved. He would

defeat sin, death, and Satan and restore the relationship between God and man.

**McKenzie:** Hundreds of years passed while God's people waited, sometimes wondering if God had forgotten the promise He had made in the Garden of Eden. But God had not forgotten. He sent prophets such as Isaiah to remind the people that He would one day fulfill His promise to restore peace. Isaiah prophesied about the promised Savior, saying, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

**V** To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given.

**C** This Christmas we receive the blessed gift of heaven.

### **Hymn: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"**

LSB 380

1. **Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

**Ref.** Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

2. **Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!  
*Refrain***
3. **Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of  
Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris'n with healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die, Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth. *Refrain***

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.  
Tune: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

### **✠ PEACE IS PROCLAIMED ✠**

**Jacob:** Malachi, the last prophet recorded in the Old Testament, foretold that God would send a messenger to prepare the way of the promised Savior. Four hundred years later, when John the Baptist was born, his father, Zechariah, proclaimed these words about John, who was the messenger: "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace" (Luke 1:76–79).

**Tegan:** The promised Prince of Peace was about to arrive! God sent an angel to Mary with the proclamation that she would be the mother of the Savior. 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” (Luke 1:30–33).

**Clara:** God also sent an angel to proclaim this good news to Joseph. Matthew 1:20–23 tells us, “An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel’ (which means, God with us).”

**V** The prophets spoke about the Savior God would send,

**C** The glorious Prince of Peace whose kingdom shall not end.

## Hymn: “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

LSB 374

1. *Woodwind trio.*
2. **Angels sang about His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;  
Heaven’s star shone brightly forth Glory all around Him.  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, Heard the angels singing;  
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ringing.**
3. **Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger; He is still the  
Undeified But no more a stranger. Son of God of humble birth,  
Beautiful the story; Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the  
King of glory!**

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859–1933  
Text: Public domain

## ✠ The Prince of Peace ✠

**Maya:** The birth of Jesus Christ from Luke chapter 2: “In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling

cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn” (Luke 2:1–7).

**Victoria:** “And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!’” (Luke 2:8–14).

**Kaitlyn:** “When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.’ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them” (Luke 2:15–20).

The baby born in Bethlehem was the promised Prince of Peace, the Son of God, Jesus Christ, our Savior! God the Father sent His only Son into this world to live a perfect life in our place, die on the cross for our sins, and rise again to life, giving us the sure hope of eternal life. All who believe in Him shall have peace with God once more. Romans 5:1 declares, “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**V** The angels sang God’s praise amid the heavens bright.

**C** **We also join in song and fill the church with light.**

**V** The shepherds left the sheep they watched in nearby fields

**C** **To see the Lamb of God in human flesh revealed.**

**Children’s Hymn** “Away in a Manger”

(LSB 364)

*Only the children sing first two verses*

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,

The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.

The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,

The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,

But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.

I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

- 3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay**  
**Close by me forever and love me, I pray.**  
**Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,**  
**And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.**

✠ PEACE FOR ALL PEOPLE ✠

**Georgia:** Jesus Christ came for all people. God placed a star in the heavens to guide the Wise Men from the East to the Savior of the world. We read from Matthew chapter 2: “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him’” (Matthew 2:1–2).

**Donovan:** “When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: “And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd My people Israel”’” (Matthew 2:3–6).

**Lauren:** Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found Him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him.’ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was” (Matthew 2:7–9).

**Robert:** “When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way” (Matthew 2:10–12).

**Alex:** The shepherds couldn’t keep the good news of the Savior to themselves. They returned glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard. The Wise Men also likely shared the story of the star that led them to the Savior-King. How beautiful it is when we share the Good News of the Savior, who brings peace to the world. Isaiah 52:7 tells us, “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who

brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'"

- V** We also kneel before the Babe in humble stall,  
**C** The Lord our Righteousness who came to save us all.

**Hymn: "Angels We Have Heard on High"** LSB 368

1. Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.

**Ref.** Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song? *Refrain*
3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.; French  
Text: Public domain

**Christmas Meditation**

Pastor Bailes

**Apostles' Creed**

- C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life  $\text{✙}$  everlasting. 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)*

**Offertory: "What Child Is This"** Bassoon accompaniment by Trent H.



## ✠ 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.

### 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

### 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.

### 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.”

### The Peace of the Lord

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

**C** Amen.

### Communion Solo: “Mary Did You Know?”

Lyric Morgan

### Hymn: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” LSB 361

1. O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep

The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary,  
And, gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king  
And peace to all the earth!
3. How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.
4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93

Text: Public domain

## Hymn: "The First Noel"

CW 136

1. The first Noel, the angel did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields as they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep. *Refrain*

**Ref.** Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

2. They look-ed up and saw a star  
Shining in the east, beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued day and night. *Refrain*
5. Then entered in those wise men three,  
Full rev'rently up on their knee,  
And offered there in His presence  
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

Text: Traditional English carol  
Text: Public domain

## Responsive Reading

**V** Lord, let Your servants go in peace;

**C** Your word has been fulfilled.

**V** Our eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of every people;

**C** A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.

## Hymn: “Silent Night”

LSB 363

1. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav’nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming  
grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85

Text: Public domain

## Benediction

**V** Joy to the world, the Son of God, our Savior, has come! The peace of the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you today and every day.

**C** Amen.

## Hymn: “Joy to the World”

LSB 363

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

Text: Public domain

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