

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.*

The Diamond Found in the Manger

Today we remember Mary and Joseph as they come to Bethlehem. We sing with the angels as they fill the sky. We run with the shepherds as they arrive on the scene. We behold the glory of God in the face of His Son, Jesus Christ. It is here we find our peace. Wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger, our Prince of Peace is very much the diamond that the everlasting Father gives to us. As we gather to open His Word and sing His praises, let us rejoice in Jesus, the greatest blessing the world will ever know.

Pre-Service Music

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"

"Somewhere in My Memory"

The Messiah: I. Overture

The Messiah: II. "Comfort Ye, My People"

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

John Williams

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

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.

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: *Refrain*

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

Confession and Forgiveness

P Everlasting Father, we acknowledge our unworthiness to stand in Your presence as we celebrate the arrival of Your Son to save us. Confessing our sins of thought, word, and deed, we pray:

G Father, forgive us.

P The Virgin Mary accepted Your call to be the mother of Jesus. Forgive us for the ways we ignore the call of Your Holy Word and live in disobedience to Your perfect will. We pray:

G Father, forgive us.

P Your Son, our Savior, was humbly born and laid in the Bethlehem manger. Forgive our greed, pride, and rejection of Your commands. We pray:

G Father, forgive us.

P The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem and see what the Lord had made known to them. Forgive our self-interest and unwillingness to leave everything to follow You. We pray:

G Father, forgive us.

P The Magi followed the star as it led them to Jesus, the true King of all people.
Forgive us for not seeking You with all our hearts. We pray:

C **Father, forgive us.**

P Our Wonderful Counselor and Mighty God sends forth His perfect gift into our sinful world. Let us behold the glory of Jesus Christ and receive the redemption He earned for us by His death and resurrection. By faith in His promises, we become children of our Everlasting Father and heirs of His eternal kingdom. By the command and authority of Jesus, our Prince of Peace, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

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!” *Refrain***

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_incarinate 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)

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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 Isaiah Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7

L The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, the ninth chapter.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,

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. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Choir: *"Sweet Child of Bethlehem"* Joel Ramey; Cesar Franck (1822-1890)

God Speaks to Us Through the Apostle Paul Titus 2:11–14

L The Epistle is from Titus, the second chapter.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

God Speaks to Us Through His Son Luke 2:1–20

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

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.

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!"

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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message

Cheryl Bailes

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. *Refrain*

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

Apostles' Creed

G 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 † everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Wonderful Counselor, You govern all things with wisdom, righteousness, and truth. Grant to all mankind the joy of Your presence, that we may see You at work in our midst. Guide all nations to behold Your glory in the face of Jesus. Wherever the good news of great joy is announced, grant that lives be changed forever by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Let us pray to the Lord:

G Lord Jesus, bring joy to our world!

P Mighty God, You reign over all things and yet, in Christ, You reach down to save us by placing the most brilliant Light and most beautiful diamond in the manger of Bethlehem. Give us the boldness to declare Your mighty deeds and reflect the brightness of Your truth throughout the world. Inspire us to fulfill our earthly callings so that, through our worship and witness, all may know Your saving love. Let us pray to the Lord:

G Lord Jesus, bring joy to our hearts and minds!

P Everlasting Father, You embrace us and make us Your children through faith in Your only-begotten Son. Bless all those who, in any form of illness of mind and body, need Your tender care. Heal the sick, bind up the brokenhearted, and grant Your perfect peace to all who rest in You. We pray for those with special needs, that they may rejoice in the message of Christ coming into this world for them. Let us pray to the Lord:

G Lord Jesus, bring joy to our bodies and souls!

P Prince of Peace, You give to us what the world can never give. Drive out all fears and doubts. Deliver us from all enemies, seen and unseen. Grant us solace in Him whose blood has set us free that we may be Your people forever. Open our ears to the message of the angels: "Fear not . . . for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Let us pray to the Lord:

G Lord Jesus, bring joy to our world!

- P** Gracious God, we entrust all of these prayers into Your good and gracious hands, for the sake of Him whose birth we celebrate: Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- G** 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: *The Messiah:* L. "O Death, Where is Thy Sting?"

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

✠ Our Lord Comes to Us In His Body and His Blood ✠

- P** The Lord be with you.
- G** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- G** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- G** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Hymn: "From East to West"

LSB 385

1. From east to west, from shore to shore
Let ev'ry heart awake and sing
The holy child whom Mary bore,
The Christ, the everlasting king.

Text: Coelius Sedulius, 5th cent.; tr. John Ellerton, 1826-93, alt.
Text: Public domain

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.

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

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

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: "Away in a Manger"

LSB 364

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.

Text (sts. 1–2): Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.
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

Litany of Light

1 John 1:5, 7; John 8:12; Matthew 5:16

P This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you,
C that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

P If we walk in the light, as He is in the light,
C we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His
Son cleanses us from all sin.

P Jesus says, "I am the light of the world.
C Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the
light of life."

P "In the same way, let your light shine before others,
C so that they may see your good works and give glory to your
Father who is in heaven."

Hymn: "Silent Night"

LSB 363

1st Verse, German: Carson, Ruth, and Hannah Wieghat, Joshua Pillows

1. *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,*

*Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.*

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

Closing Sentences

- 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.**

Choir: *The Messiah*: XLIV. “Hallelujah”

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

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: “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: George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Postlude

The Messiah: LIII. “Amen”

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Special Thanks

Joshua Pillows - Quartet, Organist, Pianist, Harpsichordist

Carson Wieghat - Quartet, Organist Assistant

Ruth Wieghat - Quartet

Hannah Wieghat - Quartet

Carol Bartel - Choir Director

The Living Savior Lutheran Church Choir

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