

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 chalice for those in need of these items.*

OUR CONTACT INFORMATION

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Mike Newman – Head Trustee

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Jennifer Steen - Youth

Mark Lamprecht – Financial Secretary

Andrea Mascardo - Christian

Joyce Knighten/Carol Patterson –

Thomas and Shala Fendia –

Family Life

-Contact information available upon request-

Stewardship

In Every Generation

How long is a generation? Keepers of statistics suggest that a generation is between twenty and thirty years and note that at the present time there are six distinct generations living in the United States. The current generations range from our oldest citizens, known as the *Greatest Generation* through our youngest, given the group name of *Generation Z*. In the account of the presentation of our Lord in the temple at Jerusalem, we see Jesus as a baby from the youngest generation and we meet Anna the prophetess, well advanced into the most elderly generation, and Simeon, who is often portrayed as an older man. The temple is the place for all generations to experience the presence and blessing of God! The psalmist exults in praise to God: "One generation shall commend Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts" (Psalm 145:4). As we worship, we continue that praise in this generation.

Pre-Service Music

Welcome/Announcements

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 89:1, 52; 71:19, 23

- P** I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;
C with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations.
- P** Your righteousness, O God, reaches the high heavens.
C You who have done great things, O God, who is like You?
- P** My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to You;
C my soul also, which You have redeemed.
- P** Blessed be the LORD forever!
C Amen and Amen.

Hymn: "Let All Together Praise Our God"

LSB 389

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Let all together praise our God
Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav'n again
To give us His own Son,
To give us His own Son. | 3. Within an earthborn form He hides
His all-creating light;
To serve us all He humbly cloaks
The splendor of His might,
The splendor of His might. |
| 2. He leaves His heav'nly Father's throne,
Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone,
Lies in a humble stall,
Lies in a humble stall. | 6. He is the key and He the door
To blessed paradise;
The angel bars the way no more.
To God our praises rise,
To God our praises rise. |

Confession and Absolution

- P** People redeemed by the Lord, let us now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.
- C** **Merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We repent of having sinned in thought, in word, and in deed. So often we have left undone those things which we ought to have done and have done those things which we ought not to have done. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask for the grace and forgiveness that we know to be ours in Jesus, our Savior. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us, heavenly Father, to change what is sinful in our lives so that each day we grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name.**
- P** God has promised pardon, life, and salvation because of the atoning sacrifice of His beloved Son, who has replaced slavery to sin with a priceless inheritance of freedom and joy. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.
- C** **Amen.**

Hymn: “O Worship the King”

LSB 804

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. O worship the King,
all-glorious above.
O gratefully sing
His pow’r and His love;
Our shield and defender,
the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor
and girded with praise. | 2. O tell of His might,
O sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light,
whose canopy space;
His chariots of wrath
the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is His path
on the wings of the storm. |
|--|---|

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt.
Text: Public domain

Greeting

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

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.
- Gracious God of endings and beginnings, we commit to Your grace and forgiveness the year now being completed and commend to Your kindness and love the year about to begin. Throughout the coming weeks and months make the presence of Your Holy Spirit known in our lives, drawing us ever closer to Jesus and uniting all generations of Your faithful people in bonds of love and care, as we continue to grow in our baptismal grace and await the joy of eternal life in Your glorious presence. This we ask for the sake of Jesus, our Savior.
- C** **Amen.**

✠ God Speaks to Us Through His Word ✠

God Speaks to Us Through Isaiah

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

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.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

God Speaks to Us Through the Apostle Paul

Galatians 4:4–7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

God Speaks to Us Through His Son

Luke 2:22–40

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation
that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."

And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: "In His Temple Now Behold Him"

LSB 519

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. In His temple now behold Him,
See the long-expected Lord;
Ancient prophets had foretold Him,
God has now fulfilled His word.
Now to praise Him, His redeemed
Shall break forth with one accord. | Ere in perfect faith they die.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Lo, the incarnate God Most High! |
| 2. In the arms of her who bore Him,
Virgin pure, behold Him lie
While His aged saints adore Him | 3. Jesus, by Your presentation,
When they blessed You, weak and poor,
Make us see Your great salvation,
Seal us with Your promise sure;
And present us in Your glory
To Your Father, cleansed and pure. |

Text: Henry J. Pye, c. 1825–1903, alt.
Text: Public domain

Sermon: "God's Time in Our Generation"

Galatians 4:4-7

Creed

Nicene Creed

G 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

P Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned.

Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend [name(s)] and all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; 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.

Hymn: “We Praise You, O God”

LSB 785

1. We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.

Text: Julia B. Cory, 1882–1963, alt.
Text: Public domain

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** 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.”

Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.
C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pax Domini

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

Hymn: “God Loves Me Dearly”

LSB 392

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. God loves me dearly,
Grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me. <i>Refrain</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none">2. I was in slav’ry,
Sin, death, and darkness;
God’s love was working
To make me free. <i>Refrain</i> |
| <p>Ref. Therefore I’ll say again:
God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. He sent forth Jesus,
My dear Redeemer,
He sent forth Jesus
And set me free. <i>Refrain</i> |

4. Jesus, my Savior,
Himself did offer;
Jesus, my Savior,
Paid all I owed. *Refrain*

5. Now I will praise You,
O Love Eternal;
Now I will praise You
All my life long. *Refrain*

Text: August Rische, 1819–1906; tr. composite
Text: Public domain

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

LSB 393

1 Infant holy,
Infant lowly,
For His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing,
Little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging,
Angels singing,
Bells are ringing,
Tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

2 Flocks were sleeping,
Shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory,
Heard the story,
Tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing,
Free from sorrow,
Praises voicing,
Greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

Text: tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.; Polish
Text: Public domain

Post-Communion Canticle “Song of Simeon”

LSB 211

1 O Lord, now let Your servant
Depart in heav’nly peace,
For I have seen the glory
Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles
Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people,
Your chosen Israel.

2 All glory to the Father,
All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit,
Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God’s triune name resounding
Through all eternity.

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ, assuring us thereby that we are truly members of His Body, the Church. And we ask that You would help us by Your Holy Spirit that we may continue in this fellowship and do the good works that You desire us to do, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, to whom with You and the same Spirit, be praise in all generations, forever and ever.

C Amen.

Benediction

P Go out into the world in peace, have courage, hold to what is good, return no person evil for evil, strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor all people, love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. The almighty God—the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless you.

C Amen.

Hymn: “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

LSB 388

Ref. Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev’rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching
O’er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. *Refrain*

2. The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior’s birth. *Refrain*

3. Down in a lonely manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Text (sts. 1–3): John W. Work II, 1873–1925, alt.; (ref): African American spiritual
Text: Public domain

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