



# 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.*

| <b><u>OUR CONTACT INFORMATION</u></b>                             |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Living Savior Lutheran Church<br>310 Louisa, Montgomery, TX 77356 | <a href="http://www.livingsaviortexas.org">www.livingsaviortexas.org</a><br>Church Phone: (936) 597-8013 | Prayer Chain Requests under<br>"Contact Us" tab on website                               |
| Pastor David R. Bailes  | (936) 521-9389 (cell)  | <a href="mailto:drbailes@livingsaviortexas.org">drbailes@livingsaviortexas.org</a>       |
| Vicar Tim Douglas   | (713) 515-2003 (cell)  | <a href="mailto:tdouglas@livingsaviortexas.org">tdouglas@livingsaviortexas.org</a>       |
| Joshua Pillows  | Director of Worship Arts   | <a href="mailto:Jmpillows95@livingsaviortexas.org">Jmpillows95@livingsaviortexas.org</a> |
| Cheryl G. Bailes  | Director of Christian Education  | <a href="mailto:cgbailes@livingsaviortexas.org">cgbailes@livingsaviortexas.org</a>       |
| Lindsay Oneto   | Church Office Administrator  | <a href="mailto:office@livingsaviortexas.org">office@livingsaviortexas.org</a>           |
| <b><u>ELDERS OF LIVING SAVIOR</u></b>                             |  |  |
| <u>Butch Nye: Presiding Elder</u><br>(936) 522-7464               | <u>Roger Bartel</u><br>(936) 537-0011  | <u>Thomas Fendia</u><br>(832) 877-5493   |
| <u>Clay Hegar</u><br>(903) 275-8413                               | <u>Doug Krenz</u><br>(713) 248-9892  | <u>Doug Lee</u><br>(281) 744-0448  |
| <u>Earl McCaleb</u><br>(936) 445-8923                             | <u>John Nye</u><br>(936) 672-1139  | <u>Bruce Shutt</u><br>(346) 273-5594   |
| <b><u>CHURCH COUNCIL OF LIVING SAVIOR</u></b>                     |  |  |
| Pete Hames – President  |  | Jack & Peggy Heintschel -<br>Evangelism  |
| Chris Cheatham – Vice President                                   |  | Mike Newman – Head Trustee   |
| Lisa Schoppa – Secretary  |  | Jennifer Steen - Youth   |
| LeAnn Way – Treasurer   |  | Andrea Mascardo - Christian  |
| Mark Lamprecht – Financial Secretary                              |  | Thomas and Shala Fendia –<br>Stewardship   |
| Joyce Knighten/Carol Patterson –<br>Family Life                   | -Contact information available upon request-   |  |

## **Look Here! Hear!**

The Twelve Days of our Christmas celebration have come to an end. But the miraculous birth of the Son of God is only the beginning of the story. For though Jesus came as the fulfillment of all the promises to God's chosen people Israel, the promise to Abraham was clear that by his seed "all the families of the earth" would be blessed (Genesis 12:3). This is the mystery Paul speaks of in Ephesians 3, how "the Gentiles are fellow heirs . . . of the promise in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 3:6). Anything hidden remains a mystery until it is revealed. No one, Jew or Gentile, can come to faith in Christ without the Gospel being revealed. Another word for "reveal" is "epiphany." So today Matthew uses the word "behold," showing what may seem a surprise to some. "Behold, wise men from the east" (Matthew 2:1). "Behold, the star that they had seen" (Matthew 2:9). Today we say, behold, Christmas is a much bigger thing than many have thought. It encompasses nothing less than all our Lord's earthly ministry culminating in His suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit. It is nothing less than the gift of salvation to all who believe. This epiphany has invaded your darkness through the water and the Word of your Holy Baptism, through the Word of God preached in your hearing, and through the receiving of our Lord's very body and blood in the Sacrament of the Altar to sustain that gift, that epiphany of faith to the end of days. By faith you have made a very good beginning.

## **Pre-Service Music**

## **Welcome/Announcements**

## **Presentation by The Gideons**

## **We Call Upon the Name of the Lord**

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

## **Opening Sentences**

Psalm 43:4; 124:8

- P** I will go to the altar of God,  
**C** to God my exceeding joy.

- P** Our help is in the name of the LORD,  
**C** who made heaven and earth.

## **Hymn: "What Child Is This"**

LSB 370

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

2. **Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The babe, the son of Mary!**

3. **So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The babe, the son of Mary!**

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98  
Text: Public domain

## Confession and Absolution

- P** I confess to almighty God,  
**C** before all the company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word, and deed through my fault, through my own fault, through my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray almighty God, for the sake of Jesus Christ, His Son, to have mercy on me, forgive me my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.
- P** Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## Hymn: “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

LSB 528

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. <b>Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing<br/>My great Redeemer’s praise,<br/>The glories of my God and King,<br/>The triumphs of His grace!</b></p> <p>3. <b>Jesus! The name that charms our fears,<br/>That bids our sorrows cease;</b></p> | <p><b>’Tis music in the sinner’s ears,<br/>’Tis life and health and peace.</b></p> <p>4. <b>He breaks the pow’r of canceled sin;<br/>He sets the pris’ner free.<br/>His blood can make the foulest clean;<br/>His blood avails for me.</b></p> |
|---|--|

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## Greeting

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

## Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.  
God our Savior, as at creation Your first command was “Let there be light,” so by Your Word You create the light of faith in penitent hearts. As Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, keep us steadfast in Your Word, the revelation of Your truth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## God Speaks to Us Through Isaiah

Isaiah 60:1–6

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## God Speaks to Us Through the Apostle Paul

Ephesians 3:1–12

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## God Speaks to Us Through His Son

Matthew 2:1–12

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

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

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.” 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.”

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. 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.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Children's Message

Cheryl Bailes

### Hymn of the Day: “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!”

LSB 395

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1. O Morning Star, how fair and bright!<br/>You shine with God's own truth and light,<br/>Aglow with grace and mercy!<br/>Of Jacob's race, King David's son,<br/>Our Lord and master, You have won<br/>Our hearts to serve You only!<br/>Lowly, holy!<br/>Great and glorious,<br/>All victorious,<br/>Rich in blessing!<br/>Rule and might o'er all possessing!</p> <p>4. Almighty Father, in Your Son<br/>You loved us when not yet begun<br/>Was this old earth's foundation!<br/>Your Son has ransomed us in love<br/>To live in Him here and above:<br/>This is Your great salvation.</p> | <p>Alleluia!<br/>Christ the living,<br/>To us giving<br/>Life forever,<br/>Keeps us Yours and fails us never!</p> <p>5. O let the harps break forth in sound!<br/>Our joy be all with music crowned,<br/>Our voices gladly blending!<br/>For Christ goes with us all the way—<br/>Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!<br/>His love is never ending!<br/>Sing out! Ring out!<br/>Jubilation!<br/>Exultation!<br/>Tell the story!<br/>Great is He, the King of Glory!</p> |
|--|---|

Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.; Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110375510

## Sermon: “From Mystery to Light”

Ephesians 3:1-12

### Creed

Nicene 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  $\text{✙}$  of the world to come. Amen.

## Prayer of the Church

- P** O God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God of our fathers in faith, and God of light, we praise You and give You thanks, above all for revealing Your gracious will of salvation through the lamp of Your Word, through the light of Your Christ. In Jesus, the light of Your salvation has shone in the hearts of people of all nations. Hear our prayers for the life and salvation of all people. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Gracious Lord, as the star spread the news of Your Son's birth over distant lands, so make Your Church and her people to be a shining witness of the Gospel of salvation to all people, both near and far. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Extend Your reign, O Christ, over the whole earth so that oppression may be transformed to freedom and justice. Give wisdom to those who lead. Grant that they rule justly and with wisdom, according to Your gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord Jesus, bless all those who are ill, injured, or in mourning, [*especially . . .*]. Fill them with the assurance of Your promises and grant that we may be of help and encouragement to them. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord, accept our humble praise and thanksgiving for the blessings given to our brothers and sisters who rejoice this week. We acknowledge You as the source of all goodness and magnify Your name with all the gifts You give. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Savior of the nations, we thank You for the blessed memory of those who have died in the faith whom You have gathered into Your heavenly kingdom. Grant that we always look to the future with hope and confidence in the reunion that is ours when You transport us to that glorious place that is beyond all tears and sinning. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.
- 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.

## **Sanctus: “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”**

LSB 805

- △ 1. **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.**

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711  
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.**

- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## **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.**



## **Pax Domini (Peace of the Lord)**

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

**G** Amen.

## **Hymn: “Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray”**

LSB 623

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray<br/>That we may feast on You today;<br/>Beneath these forms of bread and wine<br/>Enrich us with Your grace divine.</p> <p>2. Give us, who share this wondrous food,<br/>Your body broken and Your blood,</p> | <p>The grateful peace of sins forgiv’n,<br/>The certain joys of heirs of heav’n.</p> <p>4 One bread, one cup, one body, we,<br/>Rejoicing in our unity,<br/>Proclaim Your love until You come<br/>To bring Your scattered loved ones home.</p> |
|---|--|

Text: Henry E. Jacobs, 1844–1932, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## **Hymn: “As with Gladness Men of Old”**

LSB 397

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1. As with gladness men of old<br/>Did the guiding star behold;<br/>As with joy they hailed its light,<br/>Leading onward, beaming bright;<br/>So, most gracious Lord, may we<br/>Evermore be led by Thee.</p> <p>4. Holy Jesus, ev’ry day<br/>Keep us in the narrow way;<br/>And when earthly things are past,</p> | <p>Bring our ransomed souls at last<br/>Where they need no star to guide,<br/>Where no clouds Thy glory hide.</p> <p>5. In the heav’nly country bright<br/>Need they no created light;<br/>Thou its light, its joy, its crown,<br/>Thou its sun which goes not down;<br/>There forever may we sing<br/>Alleluias to our King.</p> |
|--|---|

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, 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**

**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: “Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”**

LSB 394

1. Songs of thankfulness and praise,  
Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,  
Manifested by the star  
To the sages from afar,  
Branch of royal David’s stem  
In Thy birth at Bethlehem:  
Anthems be to Thee addressed,  
God in man made manifest.

3. **Manifest in making whole  
Palsied limbs and fainting soul;  
Manifest in valiant fight,  
Quelling all the devil's might;  
Manifest in gracious will,  
Ever bringing good from ill;  
Anthems be to Thee addressed,  
God in man made manifest.**
5. **Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord,  
Present in Thy holy Word—  
Grace to imitate Thee now  
And be pure, as pure art Thou;  
That we might become like Thee  
At Thy great epiphany  
And may praise Thee, ever blest,  
God in man made manifest.**

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, alt.  
Text: Public domain

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1.  
Copyright © 2023 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

#### **Acknowledgments**

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.  
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.