

# **LIVING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Montgomery, Texas

The Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

July 20, 2025

# 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 together. 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 use the QR code in Notes for Today or fill out an attendance card found in the back of the pew and place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher as you leave. **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.*

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Ann Heidel – Secretary		Jennifer Steen - Youth
– Treasurer		Sandra Ciaccio – Christian Growth
Mark Lamprecht – Financial Secretary		Thomas and Shala Fendia –
Carol Patterson – Family Life		Stewardship
<i>-Contact information available upon request-</i>		

## Always Better

We try to exercise our freedom and planning, but God's way is always better. It was better for Abraham and Sarah in the Old Testament Reading and gets Mary's attention in the Gospel. It was still taking some time for the new believers of Colossae to fathom that God had done so much for them in Christ. And when their friends found the treasure of the Gospel, they, too, must have laughed that God had such gracious plans for them, plans that are always better than they imagined.

## Pre-Service Music

## Welcome/Announcements

## We Call Upon the Name of the Lord

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

## Opening Sentences

Colossians 1:21–22; Psalm 27:14

P And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,

C **Christ has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death,**

P in order to present you holy and blameless

C **and above reproach before Him.**

P Wait for the Lord; be strong,

C **and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!**

## Hymn: “Come, We That Love the Lord”

LSB 669

1. Come, we that love the Lord,  
And let our joys be known;  
Join in a song with sweet accord,  
Join in a song with sweet accord  
And thus surround the throne,  
And thus surround the throne. *Refrain*

*Ref. We're marching to Zion,  
Beautiful, beautiful Zion;  
We're marching upward to Zion,  
The beautiful city of God.*

3. The hill of Zion yields  
A thousand sacred sweets

Before we reach the heav'nly fields,  
Before we reach the heav'nly fields,  
Or walk the golden streets,  
Or walk the golden streets. *Refrain*

4. Then let our songs abound,  
And ev'ry tear be dry;  
We're marching through Emmanuel's  
ground,  
We're marching through Emmanuel's  
ground  
To fairer worlds on high,  
To fairer worlds on high. *Refrain*

Text (sts. 1, 3–4): Isaac Watts, 1674–1748; (ref): Robert Lowry, 1826–99  
Text: Public domain

## Confession and Absolution

- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C **Amen.**

## Hymn: “Through Jesus’ Blood and Merit”

LSB 746 (tune of 442)

1. **Through Jesus’ blood and merit  
I am at peace with God.  
What, then, can daunt my spirit,  
However dark my road?**

**My courage shall not fail me,  
For God is on my side;  
Though hell itself assail me,  
Its rage I may deride.**

Text: Simon Dach, 1605–59; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## Greeting

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

## Prayer of the Day

- P Let us pray.  
O Lord, grant us the Spirit to hear Your Word
- C **and know the one thing needful that by Your Word and Spirit we may live according to Your will;**
- P through 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 Moses

Genesis 18:1–14

The Lord appeared to [Abraham] by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth and said, “O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, “Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes.” And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” And he said, “She is in the tent.” The Lord said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening

at the tent door behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?" The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## **God Speaks to Us Through the Apostle Paul**

Colossians 1:21–29

You, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## **God Speaks to Us Through His Son**

Luke 10:38–42

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

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

Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **Children's Message**

Pastor Douglas

### **Hymn: "If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee"**

LSB 750

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. If thou but trust in God to guide thee<br>And hope in Him through all thy ways,<br>He'll give thee strength, whate'er betide thee,<br>And bear thee through the evil days.<br>Who trusts in God's unchanging love<br>Builds on the rock that naught can move. | 3. Be patient and await His leisure<br>In cheerful hope, with heart content<br>To take whate'er thy Father's pleasure<br>And His discerning love hath sent,<br>Nor doubt our inmost wants are known<br>To Him who chose us for His own. |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

- |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>4. God knows full well when times of gladness<br/>         Shall be the needful thing for thee.<br/>         When He has tried thy soul with sadness<br/>         And from all guile has found thee free,<br/>         He comes to thee all unaware<br/>         And makes thee own His loving care.</p> | <p>7. Sing, pray, and keep His ways unswerving,<br/>         Perform thy duties faithfully,<br/>         And trust His Word; though undeserving,<br/>         Thou yet shalt find it true for thee.<br/>         God never yet forsook in need<br/>         The soul that trusted Him indeed.</p> |
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Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; Georg Neumark, 1621–81  
 Text: Public domain

## Sermon: “Always Better”

Genesis 18:1–14

## The Nicene Creed

381 A.D.

**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** Let us join together and go to our gracious God in prayer for all people.

For all who, like Abraham, provide for the needs of strangers and travelers, those who tend flocks, who raise crops, who distribute food, clothing, and shelter, who make the bounty of this earth available to one and all, that God would give them good weather and opportunities to serve the people around them, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, hear our prayer.**

**P** For all who do not know the guidance of the Lord, our light and salvation, or who have not heard the Gospel, as well as all who doubt in the face of oppression and injustice, who languish alone, who deal with long-term ills, [*especially . . .*], or sudden crises, who need to hear again the joyful news, that God would visit, relieve, console, and re-awaken faith within them, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, hear our prayer.**

**P** For all who joyfully carry the news of Christ, those who travel to distant lands, who speak to their friends and neighbors, who gather others around them for worship and instruction, that God would strengthen them in their joyful task, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, hear our prayer.**

- P For all who, like Mary, have chosen the good portion, joining their brothers and sisters around the world to listen to our Lord, that our gracious God would enliven their faith and uplift their spirits with His sure, joyful promises, let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P Into Your hands we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercies for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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)*

## **T Our Lord Comes to Us In His Body and His Blood T**

- 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: "All Glory Be to God on High"**

LSB 947

1. All glory be to God on high  
And thanks for all His favor;  
No harm can touch or terrify  
A child of God forever.

**God shows His good and gracious will  
And grants His peace, the world to fill—  
All strife at last has ended.**

Text: Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546; tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006  
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## **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 T 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 T 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.**

## **The 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 (The Peace of the Lord)**

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

**C** Amen.

## **Hymn: “Your Table I Approach”**

LSB 628

1. Your table I approach;  
Dear Savior, hear my prayer.  
Let not an unrepentant heart  
Prove hurtful to me there.
2. Lord, I confess my sins  
And mourn their wretched bands;  
A contrite heart is sure to find  
Forgiveness at Your hands.
3. Your body and Your blood,  
Once slain and shed for me,  
Are taken at Your table, Lord,  
In blest reality.
4. Search not how this takes place,  
This wondrous mystery;  
God can accomplish vastly more  
Than what we think could be.
5. O grant, most blessed Lord,  
That earth and hell combined  
May not about this sacrament  
Raise doubt within my mind.
6. Oh, may I never fail  
To thank You day and night  
For Your true body and true blood,  
O God, my peace and light.

Text: Gerhard Wolter Molanus, 1633–1722; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## **Hymn: “Jesus, Priceless Treasure”**

Based on LSB 743

Adap. by J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

1. Jesus, priceless treasure,  
Fount of purest pleasure,  
Truest friend to me,  
Ah, how long in anguish  
Shall my spirit languish,  
Yearning, Lord, for Thee?  
Thou art mine,  
O Lamb divine!  
I will suffer naught to hide Thee;  
Naught I ask beside Thee.
4. Hence, all earthly treasure!  
Jesus is my pleasure,  
Jesus is my choice.  
Hence, all empty glory!  
Naught to me thy story
- Told with tempting voice.  
Pain or loss,  
Or shame or cross,  
Shall not from my Savior move me  
Since He deigns to love me.
6. Hence, all fear and sadness!  
For the Lord of gladness,  
Jesus, enters in.  
Those who love the Father,  
Though the storms may gather,  
Still have peace within.  
Yea, whate’er  
I here must bear,  
Thou art still my purest pleasure,  
Jesus, priceless treasure!

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, 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.



C **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 T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

## **Hymn: “On What Has Now Been Sown”**

LSB 921

1. On what has now been sown  
Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;  
The pow’r is Thine alone  
To make it sprout and grow.  
Do Thou in grace the harvest raise,  
And Thou alone shalt have the praise!
2. To Thee our wants are known,  
From Thee are all our pow’rs;  
Accept what is Thine own  
And pardon what is ours.  
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive,  
And to Thy Word a blessing give.
3. O grant that each of us,  
Now met before Thee here,  
May meet together thus  
When Thou and Thine appear  
And follow Thee to heav’n, our home.  
E’en so, amen, Lord Jesus, come!
- D 3a. Oh, then, with hymns of praise  
These hallowed courts shall ring;  
Our voices we will raise  
The Three in One to sing  
And thus proclaim  
In joyful song,  
Both loud and long,  
That glorious name.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., Latin, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## **Dismissal**

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**



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