

WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS!

LIVING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH welcomes you as you join with us in worship this evening. 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:

- If you are a guest, please fill out one of the inserts and leave it in the basket along with your candle at the end of the service. We promise we will not bombard you with emails or calls, but this information is helpful for staying in touch.
- Out of health considerations, wearing a face covering is needed throughout the service, especially during the times you are speaking or singing.
- Hand sanitizer is available in the Narthex as well as in both restrooms.
- 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.

HOLY COMMUNION: *We are very glad that you have joined us this evening for worship 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 evening (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.*

<u>OUR CONTACT INFORMATION</u>		
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<u>CHURCH COUNCIL OF LIVING SAVIOR</u>		
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Prepare a Place – Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2020

“Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”
Luke 2:12

Pre-Service Music

Call to Worship Video: “Worship and Adore”

Opening Welcome and Announcements

We Enter the Presence of Our Lord

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C Amen.

P Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!
C To us a child is born.

P To us a Son is given.
C And the government will be on his shoulders.

P And He will be called—
C Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

P For unto you is born today in the city of David—
C A Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

Hymn: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

LSB 361, 1-3

**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.**

Text: Public domain

Confession and Forgiveness

P On this holy night, merciful Father, hear our confession, for frequently we hesitate to take your Son, Jesus, into our daily lives.

C Instead we take the forbidden fruit, like Adam and Eve, and hide behind the bushes.

P We take advantage of others, while mouthing pious words.

C We take your blessings for granted, living with thankless hearts.

P We take vengeance upon those who hurt us, promising retaliation.

C We take life into our own hands, ignoring your holy will.

P We take refuge and satisfaction in sin, spurning your commandments.

C We take hold of our possessions, refusing to let them go.

P We take part in sinful conversations, oblivious as to how they break your heart.

C Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

Reflective Video: “Rejoice”

P Luke writes in tonight’s Gospel lesson, “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11). Jesus your Savior took your place in the manger and upon the cross. As the Christ and Lord, Jesus took all of your sin, shame and brokenness. Therefore, I announce to you the complete and full pardon of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. For unto you is born today in the city of David—

C A Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

Prayer of the Day

P Almighty God, you gave your only Son to take our human nature upon himself and to be born of a virgin. Grant that we may rejoice in this Christmas gift—"For unto you is born today in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord"; 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 His Prophet

Isaiah 9:2-7

L The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. 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.

Living Savior Choir: "One Small Child"

David Meece

God Speaks to Us Through His Apostle

2 Corinthians 4:5-6

L For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

God Speaks to Us Through His Son

Luke 2:1-20

P And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Hymn: "Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB 368

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be? Which inspire your heav'nly songs?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

Christmas Message: "Whoever Takes the Son Gets It All"

Luke 2:1-20

Apostles' Creed

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.

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)

Prayer

P Dear Lord Jesus, you came from eternity into time and space—not as a metaphor or myth, fable or tale—but to bear our sin and be our Savior. We sing to you with all the humility and joy we can muster, “Born that man no more may die, born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.” We praise, bless and adore you as we embrace the hymn of the angels. For unto you is born today in the city of David—

C A Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

P Dear Lord Jesus, we thank you that Luke took such great care to detail the history of your birth—one of the greatest details is the lowliness of your birth. Any other king—like Caesar Augustus—would've come with great fanfare and a royal entourage. But you came into our world in profound weakness. “No room in the inn” wasn't an insult to you; it was your choice, your plan, the way of the Gospel. We rejoice with the angels who announced. For unto you is born today in the city of David—

C A Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

P Dear Lord Jesus, you didn't consider equality with God something to be protected or hoarded. Rather, you made yourself nothing, becoming one of us. And with measureless love and indescribable compassion, you died in our place upon the cross. Thank you for these angelic lyrics. For unto you is born today in the city of David—

C A Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

P Dear Lord Jesus, we long for the Day when every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that you are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. But on this Christmas Eve, we humble ourselves, in quietness and stillness, gratefulness and peace. We pray in your merciful and mighty name, Jesus.

C Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Duet: “I'd Sing You a Song Baby Jesus” Lyric Morgan and Lisa Schoppa *Shawna Edwards*

Closing Announcements

The Lighting of the Candles

P As we light our candles, we remember and worship our Savior, Jesus Christ, God's light of love. “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you” (Isaiah 60:1). “When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life’” (John 8:12). “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth” (Ephesians 5:8-9). “In the same way, let your light shine before people, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

Hymn “Silent Night”

(Candles will be distributed during first verse as only music is played.)

**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.**

**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.**

**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!**

**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.**

Blessing

P Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

C For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness”—

P Has shone in our hearts.

C To give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God—

P In the face of Jesus Christ.

C For unto us is born today in the city of David—a Savior, who is Christ the Lord!

P Live in His peace and joy.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn: “Joy to the World”

LSB 387

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

+ Our Lord Comes to Us in His Body and His Blood +

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us give thanks to our newborn King who has given himself for us.

C We praise You, Jesus, for preparing a place for us.

“Hark the Glad Sound”

LSB 349: 1,4

**Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne
And ev’ry voice a song.**

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav’n’s eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved name.**

Text: Public domain

The Words of Our Lord

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."

Peace of the Lord

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

LSB 361: 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: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: "Away in a Manger:

LSB 364:1-3

**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.**

**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.**

**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: Public domain