

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:

- Attendance pads will not be used during these services that have registration for attendance.
- Out of health considerations, wearing a face covering is required 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 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.*

<u>OUR CONTACT INFORMATION</u>		
Living Savior Lutheran Church 309 Pond Street, Montgomery, TX 77356	www.livingsaviortexas.org Church Phone: 936-597-8013	Prayer Chain Requests under "Contact Us" tab on website
Pastor David R. Bailes Cheryl G. Bailes Judy Kutach	936-521-9389 (cell) Director of Christian Education Director of Music	drbailes@livingsaviortexas.org cgbailes@livingsaviortexas.org jkutach@livingsaviortexas.org
<u>ELDERS OF LIVING SAVIOR</u>		
Roger Bartel Mark Dinning Doug Krenz Doug Lee Butch Nye Tom Schmidt Bruce Shutt Earl McCaleb	936-537-0011 713-429-1273 713-248-9892 281-744-0448 936-522-7464 281-414-1057 346-273-5594 936-445-8923	omro_fox@yahoo.com madinning@spectraenergy.com dougkrenz87@gmail.com adouglaslee@yahoo.com jandmnye@yahoo.com toms1970@suddenlink.net bruceshutt@yahoo.com jmccaleb@consolidated.net
<u>CHURCH COUNCIL OF LIVING SAVIOR</u>		
Jack Heintschel – President Chris Cheatham – Vice President Shirley Burg – Secretary Peter Hames – Treasurer Mark Lamprecht – Financial Secretary Tom Schmidt – Presiding Elder	Contact information available upon request.	John Burg - Evangelism Mike Newman – Trustee Lori Vahrenkamp - Youth Andrea Mascardo - Christian Growth Donna Bond - Family Life Clay and Kate Hegar - Stewardship

Seeing Our Salvation

The Gospel for the First Sunday after Christmas takes us to the temple in Jerusalem, where Jesus is brought by Mary and Joseph. In presenting Him there, they are affirming that He is dedicated to God as a firstborn son. But He is much more than a son—He is the Son. In her classic hymn text, German hymnist Elisabeth Cruciger celebrates His coming as she writes, "The only Son from heaven, foretold by ancient seers, By God the Father given, In human form appears. No sphere His light confining, No star so brightly shining As He, our Morning Star" (LSB 402:1). Jesus is the One in whom we see our salvation, whose light guides our way through life, and whose presence enlightens our world. With joy, we worship Him!

Greeting/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.
- C** Amen.

Opening Sentences

Luke 2:30, 32; Psalm 71:19, 23

- P** Alleluia! My eyes have seen Your salvation,
C a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel. Alleluia!
- 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.

Opening 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.
- 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: Public domain

Call for Confession

- 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 against You in thought, word, and deed. We have left undone those things we ought to have done; we have done those things we ought not to have done. We have not lived our lives fully in the freedom won for us by our Lord. We have not always shared the bounty You have given us as stewards of Your creation. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask Your grace and forgiveness in Jesus, our Savior. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us to change what is sinful in our lives that each day we grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name.

Lord, Have Mercy

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
C Christ, have mercy.
- P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mercy.
- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
C Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C Amen.

God Forgives Our Sins

- 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 servant of Christ, I forgive you all 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 of Praise: “Angels from the Realms of Glory”

LSB 367

- △ 5 All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the_ eternal Three in One.
- Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Text: Public domain

Greeting

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

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.
O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more

wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

+ God Speaks to Us Through His Word +

God Speaks to Us Through His Prophet

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.

G Thanks be to God.

God Speaks to Us Through His Apostle

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.

G 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.

G 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.

Hymn of the Day: "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.

4 He undertakes a great exchange,
Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us His realm,
His glory, and His name,
His glory, and His name.

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God Speaks to Us Through Pastor Quail:

"The Celebration Continues...." Isaiah 61:10-11

Catechism

The Third Article

P Through the working of the Holy Spirit, we can call God our "Abba"—our Father. The Spirit directs our praying and intercedes for us. Today we confess the words of the Apostles' Creed regarding the work of the Holy Spirit and also speak the words from Luther's Small Catechism regarding the work of the Spirit through the Church, of which each of us is a special part.

C 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.

P What does this mean?

C I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

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 of the Church

P Gathered as God's people and as heirs of an eternal inheritance, let us pray for the whole Church and for all who bear the name of Jesus Christ, who is our Light and our Salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P As we remember St. John, Apostle and Evangelist, we pray for the Church, asking that through her the joyous news of salvation be proclaimed as the Holy Spirit directs. Give us faith to acknowledge and rejoice in the fellowship that we share in Christ with people here and in every place, that we may see in each sister and brother in Christ a reflection of Your glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord of all, watch over our nation and grant Your divine favor to all who bear office in our land, especially the president and Congress of the United States, the governor and legislature of this state, and to all those who make, administer, and judge our laws. Help them to serve all those in their care according to Your holy will, that we may live in peace and safety.

Save us from pestilence and plague, for unseasonable weather, and the dangers that are ever-present in our lives.

Grant us Your blessing as one calendar year closes and another begins. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Give a special measure of blessing to those with special needs. Especially we remember the sick, the shut-in, those dealing with depression, those who sorrow, and others known to us who at this time are in need of prayer.

[especially....] Help us to be people who bless, encourage, and strengthen all those in our circles of relationship and beyond. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Sovereign Lord, we remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served You in Your Church on earth, who now rest from their labors. Keep us in fellowship with all Your saints, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven. Bless the communion we share on earth as we await the Supper of the Lamb in His kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P All these things and whatever other needs we have, grant us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever.

C Amen.

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.

Blessings

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 of God's 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 and keep you and give you peace.

C Amen.

Hymn: "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

1 Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth. Refrain

ref Come and worship, come and worship;

LSB 367

Worship Christ, the newborn King.

4 Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear. Refrain

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+ 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.

"Sing Holy, Holy, Holy"

Sing holy, holy, holy, Lord God of pow'r and might;
Heav'n and earth, Your glory, You fill from depth to height.
With our high hosannas, We welcome Him who comes
In the Lord God's name. Blest the Christ who comes.

Tune of LSB 386

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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."

Proclamation of Christ

1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20

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.

Peace of the Lord

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Word of God, Come Down on Earth

1 Word of God, come down on earth,
Living rain from heav'n descending;
Touch our hearts and bring to birth
Faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere You;
Word made flesh, we long to hear You.

LSB 545

2 Word eternal, throned on high,
Word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heav'n to die,
Crucified for our salvation,
Saving Word, the world restoring,
Speak to us, Your love outpouring.

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Distribution Hymn: "Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace"

LSB 937

1 Lord, bid Your servant go in peace,
Your word is now fulfilled.
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn,
This child so long foretold.

2 This is the Savior of the world,
The Gentiles' promised light,
God's glory dwelling in our midst,
The joy of Israel.

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