

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:

- If you are a guest, please fill out one of the green information sheets found in the row in front of you, fold it and put it back on that same seat. 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 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 dougekrenz87@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

People Who Don't Belong

We reflect today on what it means to belong. We may often feel out of place at school, at work, or perhaps even in our congregation. Perhaps the Wise Men felt like they were out of place in Jerusalem. It most likely was the case that the elders in the Temple thought that Jesus didn't belong there at only 12 years old...until they heard him speak. Yet, regardless of feelings, God invites all people from all nations to be heirs of His kingdom. In Christ, we all belong, and we always will.

Greeting/Announcement

Invocation

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

Opening Sentences

- P** Arise, shine, for your light has come!
- C** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

P All the nations shall come to the light of Christ.

C **Kings shall bring Him gifts.**

P For Christ reveals the mystery hidden through the ages,

C **that all nations are partakers of the promise in Jesus Christ.**

Opening Hymn: “As with Gladness Men of Old”

LSB 397

1 As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led by Thee.

2 As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to Thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before

Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

4 Holy Jesus, ev'ry day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past,
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

Text: Public domain

First Gospel Reading

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.**

Confession and Forgiveness

P Through the Gospel, all people are fellow heirs of salvation and members of the same Body. Yet there have been times when we have failed to live in unity, when we have failed to treat our brothers and sisters in Christ with respect and honor. Our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him and ask for His forgiveness.

P Heavenly Father,

C **we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have created division and discord. We have hidden the light of Christ from others. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us with the light of Christ, that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy sent His Son, Jesus, into our world to shine as a light for all people, including You. Jesus has died for your sins and is risen for your righteousness. Therefore, as a servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen. We are partakers of the promise. We are forgiven in Christ.**

Hymn of Praise: “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.

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: Public domain

Greeting

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

Prayer of the Day

- P** Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same 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 Word +

God Speaks to Us Through His Prophet

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 His Apostle

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.

Second Gospel Reading

Luke 2:40-52

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter
C Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon Him. Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing Him to be in the group they went a day’s journey, but then they began to search for Him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for Him. After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. And when His parents saw Him, they were astonished. And His mother said to Him, “Son, why have You treated us so? Behold, Your father and I have been searching for You in great distress.” And He said to them, “Why were you looking for Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father’s house?” And they did not understand the saying that He spoke to them. And He

went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And His mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day: "Within the Father's House"

LSB 410

1 Within the Father's house
The Son has found His home,
And to His temple suddenly
The Lord of life has come.

5 Lord, visit Thou our souls
And teach us by Thy grace
Each dim revealing of Thyself
With loving awe to trace

4 The secret of the Lord
Escapes each human eye,
And faithful pond'ring hearts await
The full epiphany.

△ 6 Till we behold Thy face
And know as we are known
Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Coequal Three in One.

Text: Public domain

Video "Take the Long Way Home"

Skit Guys Media

God Speaks to Us Through Pastor Bailes:

"Confidently Follow the Mystery Revealed"

(Ephesians 3:1-12)

Credal Hymn: "We All Believe in One True God"

LSB 953

1 We all believe in one true God,
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Ever-present help in need,
Praised by all the heav'nly host;
All He made His love enfold,
All creation He upholds.

And for us salvation won;
By whose cross and death are we
Rescued from all misery.

2 We all believe in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Mary's son,
Who descended from His throne

3 We all confess the Holy Ghost,
Who from both in truth proceeds,
Who sustains and comforts us
In all trials, fears, and needs.
Blessèd, holy Trinity,
Praise forever be to Thee!

Text: Public domain

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 We pray for the Church, that the light of the Gospel of salvation be proclaimed here and everywhere, the wisdom of God be honored and followed, and the gifts of God be treasured and shared. Lord of the Church,

C in mercy, hear our prayer.

P We pray as this New Year begins for our nation and for all of the people of the world, that there be an end to hostilities and that times of peacefulness and wellness everywhere prevail. Lord of all times and all people,

C in mercy, hear our prayer.

P We pray for our families and our neighbors. Help us to remember that each person in our lives is a precious gift from God. Guided by the Holy Spirit, help us to choose wisely how we invest our time in the coming weeks and find in our associations with God's people a source of mutual support and blessing. Lord of all generations,

C in mercy, hear our prayer.

P We pray for all sorts and conditions of people, especially making our petitions for the hospitalized and those who are shut in. We pray for those whose lives are in transition, the unemployed, those who are downcast or grieving, and for all those for whom our intercession is desired, [including . . .]. Lord of care and grace,

C in mercy, hear our prayer.

P As a community of the faithful gathered, we remember those who have shared the faith with us and now have departed this earthly life, especially those whose earthly lives came to an end in the past year. Direct our ways that we complete our journey of life in faith with divine wisdom to direct us. At the end of our days, bring us to rejoice together eternally with saints and angels and all the company of heaven in light everlasting. Lord of eternity,

C in mercy, hear our prayer.

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

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 The blessing of almighty God—the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit—be with you now and forever.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn: “The People That in Darkness Sat”

1 The people that in darkness sat
A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long
In shades of death have been,
In shades of death have been.

3 To us a Child of hope is born,
To us a Son is giv’n,
And on His shoulder ever rests

LSB 412
All pow’r in earth and heav’n,
All pow’r in earth and heav’n.
4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counselor,
The God by all adored,
The God by all adored.

Text: Public domain

+ 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: “Holy, Holy, Holy”

1 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Day and night we join to praise
Your love and majesty.
You alone are holy, worthy, and righteous.
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

tune of LSB 507
2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
We rejoice to join the hymns
Of earth and sky and sea.
Generations praise You, with saints and angels.
Holy and bless’d through all eternity.

Text: © 1991 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: Creative Worship License no. 110375510

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.

Hymn “O Lamb of God, We Pray”

tune of LSB 702

1 O Lamb of God, we pray:
Take all our sins away—
Our faith increase.
Have mercy on us all,
Strengthen us when we fall,
Answer our fervent call
And grant us peace.

Text: © 1991 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: Creative Worship License no. 110375510

Distribution Hymn: “God Loves Me Dearly”

LSB 392

1 God loves me dearly,
Grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me. Refrain

2 I was in slav’ry,
Sin, death, and darkness;
God’s love was working
To make me free. Refrain

ref Therefore I’ll say again:
God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.

3 He sent forth Jesus,
My dear Redeemer,
He sent forth Jesus
And set me free. Refrain

Text: Public domain

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2020 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 © 2020 Concordia Publishing House.