



*Gather. Equip. Send. Continuing a Legacy in Christ  
The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod*

*The Rev. Thomas E. Harmon, Senior Pastor*

*The Rev. Nicholas R. Cordt, Assistant Pastor*

6770 E. 34<sup>th</sup> St. N., Wichita, KS 67226  
316-683-5538      [postmaster@risensavior.net](mailto:postmaster@risensavior.net)

*Worship Services: 8:00 a.m. ☉ 10:30 a.m.*

*Sunday School ☉ Bible Class: 9:15 a.m.*

[www.risensavior.net](http://www.risensavior.net)



# Risen Savior

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

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Advent 2

December 9, 2020

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**WELCOME** to Risen Savior Lutheran Church as we gather as God's people to worship the Lord! May our worship strengthen your faith and desire to serve Him who loves us with an everlasting love in Christ Jesus! **Guests**, if you don't have a church home, we invite you to find out more about our congregation by going to our website (listed on front page) or by contacting our church office (316-683-5538).

**AS WE GATHER** - Advent is the name of this first season of the liturgical church year which comes from a Latin word which means "coming." It is a time of hope and waiting. Advent focuses on this "coming" in three ways: Christ coming in the past as the Baby at Bethlehem, Christ coming in the present through Word, Sacraments and in the fellowship of the church, and Christ coming again in the future at the end of time. In Advent, we prepare for the celebration of Christ's coming incarnation, but more importantly we prepare for His second coming, when He will make all things new and judge the world in righteousness.

**ANCESTRY OF JESUS** - As we continue to consider the ancestry of Jesus from the book of Matthew, we focus today on His ancestor Abraham. When He called Abraham, at first it seemed that God was promising only the physical Promised Land. But then the Lord said that Abraham would be the father of many nations, all who would share his faith. And their inheritance is a better land, the heavenly promised land itself. By the grace of God, that gracious promise is ours through our Baptism into Christ, who leads us to that better country. Come quickly, Son of Abraham.

**ADVENT CHALLENGE** - Consider taking time during this busy month to volunteer! Many choices are listed each week in our announcement pages. There are many options, and volunteering at Risen Savior is just one of them!

**LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER** - I thank You, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

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## THE ORDER OF SERVICE

### "Jesus: The Son of Abraham"

**QUIET PRAYER TIME**

Be Thoughtful and Reverent

*Before the Service: Speak to God*

*During the Service: Let God Speak to You*

*After the Service: Speak to One Another*

## **THE COUNTDOWN VIDEO**

## **WE MAKE OUR BEGINNING**

Pastor: We begin our worship in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

## **THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. The Light no darkness can overcome. Let Your Light scatter the darkness and illumine Your Church.

## **ADVENT WAITING**

We take a minute of “waiting” realizing that waiting can be difficult and uncomfortable.

## **THE ANTHEM**

**“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”**

## **WE PRAY**

P: Let us pray: Lord Jesus, You promised Your ancestor Abraham that through him all the families of the earth would be blessed. Strengthen the faith we share with him in Your gracious promises. Grant that during our sojourn on this earth we would ever look toward the better country You have prepared for us. Son of Abraham, hear our prayer. Amen

## **THE OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**Genesis 12:1–7**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. <sup>2</sup> “I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” <sup>4</sup> So Abram left, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Haran. <sup>5</sup> He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. <sup>6</sup> Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup> The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

## **THE SECOND READING**

**Hebrews 11:8–16**

<sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup> By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. <sup>12</sup> And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore. <sup>13</sup> All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. <sup>14</sup> People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL**

**John 8:48–59**

<sup>48</sup> The Jews answered Him, “Aren’t we right in saying that You are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?” <sup>49</sup> “I am not possessed by a demon,” said Jesus, “but I honor My Father and you dishonor Me. <sup>50</sup> I am not seeking glory for Myself; but there is One who seeks it, and He is the judge. <sup>51</sup> I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps My word, he will never see death.” <sup>52</sup> At this the Jews exclaimed, “Now we know that You are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet You say that if anyone keeps Your word, he will never taste death. <sup>53</sup> Are You greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think You are?” <sup>54</sup> Jesus replied, “If I glorify Myself, My glory means nothing. My Father, Whom you claim as your God, is the One who glorifies Me. <sup>55</sup> Though you do not know Him, I know Him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know Him and keep His word. <sup>56</sup> Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing My day; he saw it and was glad.” <sup>57</sup> “You are not yet fifty years old,” the Jews said to Him, “and You have seen Abraham!” <sup>58</sup> “I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!” <sup>59</sup> At this, they picked up stones to stone Him, but Jesus hid Himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

## **WE CONFESS OUR SIN AND HEAR GOD'S WORD OF GRACE**

P: In the season of Advent, we prepare for Jesus to come. We await the celebration of His birth at Christmas. We long for His glorious return. As we wait, we consider how unworthy we are to have Jesus in our presence.

**C: Lord God, our heavenly Father, hear us as we confess the darkness of our waywardness and sin, especially our reluctance or refusal to rejoice, pray, or give thanks amid the troubles we have brought upon ourselves. We have not done well in love for one another or for You. Our hearts are filled with blame and shame, with corruption and conceit. Our faith has been lacking, make us truly repentant, so that our faith might be like that of Abraham's. Forgive us, strengthen our faith, and purify our hearts. Amen.**

*(Quiet time for personal reflection and confession)*

P: Friends in Christ, if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Our sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name, we are forgiven and loved with an everlasting love!

**C: Amen**

## **THE MESSAGE**

***"Jesus: Son of Abraham"***

### **GET CONNECTED!**

It might seem hard to stay connected during this time of "social distancing," but we need to remember that we have a faithful God! Please be sure to connect with each other through prayer, emails, phone conversations, social media and any other ways we can encourage each other! If you are beginning to feel depressed, reach out! Let the church office or a friend or family member know. If you are interested in having private communion (at church or at home), let the church office know. "As Christ has welcomed you, welcome one another in order to glorify God." (Romans 15:7)

### **WE MAKE OFFERING**

*Our offering this evening will go to The Apple of His Eye Ministries (LCMS). The Apple of His Eye Mission Society exists to boldly declare Y'shua as the Messiah and urgently equip God's people to do the same. They are passionate about telling Jewish people and gentiles that Jesus is the promised Messiah and invite them to respond in faith. Our offering this evening will be matched up to \$500!*

*Please consider mailing a check to Risen Savior, made out to Risen Savior with Apple of His Eye in the memo line. For online giving, go to [www.risensavior.net](http://www.risensavior.net) and click on the link.*

### **WE PRAY**

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philipians 4:6-7*

P: Lord Jesus, guide and protect clergy and leaders of Your Church. Enable them to lift people's hearts and minds to look beyond global pandemics, natural disasters, and political upheavals to see the eternal Kingdom, which You have graciously opened to all people who trust in You for life and health and peace. Bless those who till the soil, manage farms, transport supplies, and distribute food and clothing where they are needed. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Almighty Lord, give wisdom and courage to those who lead governments, command armed forces, and maintain order in society. Give them hearts to seek peace so that warfare with neighbor states and civil strife within them give way to prosperity, health, and cooperation. Increase our faith to depend on Your eternal promises of the better country that awaits us by grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Jesus, Light of the world, open the hearts of all who are burdened by their scandals and other past sins. Surround them with faithful people to tell them about Your coming in human history to give Yourself for them. Protect and guide all law enforcement personnel, first responders, health care workers, and counselors. Help them balance justice, mercy, and compassionate care so that many may have their lives repaired and hope restored. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Gracious Lord, cared for by Your adopted human father, Joseph, remember people like him, those who have been forgotten, whether homeless, incarcerated, or isolated for any reason. Give them a sense of Your abiding presence. Nurture in us all a love for Your will so that we obediently do whatever You ask. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Servant Savior, born in a stable to a lowly Virgin, remind us again that You turn the world's ways upside down. Give strength to the weak, lift up the downtrodden, provide hope for the despairing, announce peace to the distraught, and proclaim eternal forgiveness to all burdened by their sin. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: . . . We entrust to You all for whom we pray, commending them to You, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **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.**

### **THE BLESSING**

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 His peace.

**C: Amen.**

### **WE SING**

**“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”**

**Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!  
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him, Born the King of angels;  
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Oh, come, let us adore Him,  
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

**Highest, most holy, Light of light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father, Now in flesh appearing!  
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Oh, come, let us adore Him,  
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God. . . In the highest:  
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Oh, come, let us adore Him,  
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

## **THE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- We will continue to have our Sunday morning worship services at 8:00 and 10:30 with no Sunday School or Adult Bible Classes.
- Keep watching your e-mails for updates
- Please contact the church office if you have any questions about activities.
- Don't forget to get your offering in for Apple of His Eye Ministries to be matched up to \$500! You may also still give to Fairmount Ministries (last week's Advent Service Offering) for the matching gift!

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## **SERVICE CREDITS**

"Luther's Evening Prayer" from Luther's Small Catechism© 1986 Concordia Publishing House, 3558 S. Jefferson Ave, St. Louis, MO 63118-3968.

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 <p>Angel Tree</p>	<p><i>Check out the Angel Tree and Warming Tree in the Gathering Place and help make Christmas a bit brighter for families who can use a little extra help this Christmas!!</i></p>	 <p>Warming Tree</p>
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## **Join Risen Savior in the Journey this Season!**

### **Wednesday Evening Advent Worship Services**

Our Midweek theme this year is "Ancestry of Jesus." These services will be available online on Wednesday evenings and can be found on our website for your convenience. Wednesdays at 6:30 don't work you, consider watching them at a good time for your family. Please consider supporting the following ministries through your Advent offering (our Advent Offerings this year are being matched up to \$500!):

**December 16 – Lutheran World Relief** (Their mission statement is: Affirming God's love for all people, we work with Lutherans and partners around the world to end poverty, injustice and human suffering. See their website for more information at [www.lwr.org](http://www.lwr.org))

### **Christmas Eve Evening Worship Services**

On Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00 p.m. the children of Risen Savior will share (through pre-recordings) with us the miracle of the Christmas Story through pageantry and music.

Join us at our Candlelight Service at 8:00 p.m. as we celebrate Christmas through music and Scripture. Holy Communion will be celebrated.

### **Christmas Day Worship Service**

We will celebrate the fulfillment of the many prophecies of the birth of Christ on Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.