



*a*  
**GOD-LIVED**  
*life*

**A Life Lived for Others**

## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP!**

God became man and lived life in our place. Christ lived the perfect God-lived life. Living as a Christian, a little Christ, we have the privilege of demonstrating what God looks like in how we live our lives, in living lives that show God. In today's worship, the emphasis is a life lived for others. In our Gospel, Jesus answers "Who is my neighbor?" God allows us opportunity to serve and love one another. We get to show his love by sacrificing our priorities and serving all those around us.

## **PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

*Lord God, in coming to hear your Word this morning, you have planted us like trees beside streams of water. Grant that we may rejoice in your Word and, through it as our motivation, yield abundant fruit in our lives, for the glory of our Savior, Jesus. Amen.*

**GATHERING RITE**

M: We begin our worship in the same way we were baptized: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION**

M: Heavenly Father, you have blessed us with gifts to serve you and our neighbor. We repent for times we have used those gifts selfishly instead of generously and selflessly. Forgive us and let your peace rule our lives.

**C: May the peace of God my Father rule my life in everything,  
That I may be calm to comfort sick and sorrowing.**

M: Dear Savior Jesus, you have shown us the full extent of your love by giving your life for ours on the cross. Though that love is what ought to motivate our service, too often our service is grudgingly given, motivated by guilt and obligation, instead of generously given, motivated by your love. Forgive us and let your love fill our lives.

**C: May the love of Jesus fill me as the waters fill the sea,  
Him exalting - self abasing – this is victory!**

M: O Holy Spirit, you want all people to be saved by the power of the Gospel. You also tell us that you use our Christian lives and service to lead them to hearing the Gospel. We are sorry when people see sin in our lives and not the good deeds you desire from us. Forgive us and live within us.

**C: May his Spirit live within me as I seek the lost to win,  
And may they forget the channel, seeing only him.**

M: As a called servant of the Triune God, I announce to you his grace and forgiveness. On behalf of and by the command of our Savior Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**C: May the mind of Christ my Savior live in me from day to day,  
By his love and power inspiring all I do or say.**

**May the Word of God dwell richly in my heart from hour to hour,  
So that all may see I triumph only through his power.**

M: We pray:

Almighty and merciful God, you sent your son not to be served but to serve. Grant to us a rich measure of your mercy and strength and work in us a love for others that overflows in acts of service and compassion; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**May I run the race before me, strong and brave to face the foe,  
Looking only unto Jesus as I onward go.**

## **READING**                      **1 Thessalonians 4:9-12**

*God teaches you to love each other and encourages you to live the God-lived life more and more.*

<sup>9</sup> Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. <sup>10</sup> And in fact, you do love all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to do so more and more, <sup>11</sup> and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, <sup>12</sup> so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

## **GOSPEL**                                      **Luke 10:25-37**

*The Good Samaritan illustrates humble, loving service to those who need it most. May we show the same.*

<sup>25</sup> On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

<sup>26</sup> "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

<sup>27</sup> He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

<sup>28</sup> "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

<sup>29</sup> But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

<sup>30</sup> In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’

<sup>36</sup> “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?”

<sup>37</sup> The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      *LORD OF GLORY, YOU HAVE BOUGHT US* | **CW 767**

**SERMON**      **1 Thessalonians 4:9-12**      **Hands – What Story Do They Tell?**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH**      *Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.**

## **OFFERING**

***Please fill out a Connection Card while the offering is brought forward to the altar; please place the card in the plate on the table just to the right as you leave church.***

*Members of Living Savior support the ministry of sharing the good news of Jesus through their offerings. Guests may choose to give back to the Lord at Living Savior, through their own congregation, or in other ways that reflect a thankful heart. We are glad to share our joy and hope with you.*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

M: Lord Jesus, our only Savior and Lord, we praise and thank you for humbling yourself for us. You gave your life for ours that we might be called children of God, and that is what we are. No earthly effort or riches could be given to satisfy God's just wrath over us and our sins. We were helpless and hopeless. But your holy precious blood paid the price of our forgiveness. You gave yourself freely and willingly for us. Now eternity is ours as a gift earned by you. Grant that we live in awe of this gift and thanksgiving for each day of your grace. Grant us the grace to live our lives for you by living for others. Lord in your mercy:

**C: Hear our prayer.**

M: Holy Spirit, work in us a rich measure of wisdom that we may reflect your love for us in the lives we live here on earth. Work in us a rich measure of your peace that we can boldly spend our lives in serving others and helping them in their need. Loosen our tongues and bless us with the words to speak to encourage and help others with your love, forgiveness, and truth. Lord, in your mercy:

**C: Hear our prayer.**

M: Heavenly Father, creator of all, provider of our every need, strengthen our hands to serve you by serving others. Provide our every need and grant us a rich measure of your abundance that we may never fail to have enough as we share with others of the good gifts you have given to us. Help us use the hours of each day not just for ourselves but for you. Help us use the treasure you have given to bless others. Help us to use the abilities you have given us to serve more than be served, as your Son did for us. Lord, in your mercy:

**C: Hear our prayer.**

*A prayer of thanksgiving for Pastor and Jean's granddaughter, Mikayla and husband, Hayden Johnson, received the blessing of a new baby girl on Tuesday the 31<sup>st</sup>: Delaney Jean.*

*A prayer for the ministry at Living Savior will be offered.*

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

M: Teach us, O Lord, to love each other more and more. Grant that as we use the gifts you give to live our lives for others, we not only glorify you, but win the respect of outsiders that they may come to listen and learn of your life lived for us, died for us, and raised for our forgiveness and eternal life. We make our requests to you through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

**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 SACRAMENT

M: To prepare yourself for this solemn Meal, I ask you to search your heart and silently answer these Christian Questions:

- Do you confess that you are by nature sinful and unclean?
- Do you realize that you deserve God's punishment now and forever?
- Are you sorry for your sins?
- Do you believe in Jesus Christ as your crucified and risen Savior?
- Do you intend with God's help to change your sinful ways?
- Do you believe that in and with the bread and wine of communion, you miraculously receive the body of Jesus given for you and the blood of Jesus shed for you on the cross?

M: Jesus, God's Son and your Savior, has been holy for you. He died for you. For Jesus' sake God has forgiven your sins. Through faith in Jesus, forgiveness and eternal life are yours. To assure you of your forgiveness, Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

### **DISTRIBUTION**—*Member Communion*

*The Lord's Supper is a beautiful expression of unity—with our Lord and among members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) and Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS). If you are not yet a confirmed member of a WELS or ELS church, we ask that you refrain from communing today. If you would like to join us in the future, please speak with the pastor about instruction classes offered. To God be the glory!*

### **DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

***SOUL, ADORN YOURSELF WITH GLADNESS | CW 663***



# BIBLE STUDY

## ACTS 9:36-42

<sup>36</sup> In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. <sup>37</sup> About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. <sup>38</sup> Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!"

<sup>39</sup> Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

<sup>40</sup> Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. <sup>41</sup> He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. <sup>42</sup> This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

## INTRODUCTION

Name a "Tabitha" in your life. What was something you saw in that person that impacted your life?

## INTO THE TEXT

1. Your obituary is written long before any words are printed on a newspaper page or spoken at your funeral. It is written in your actions and attitudes and verified by all the lives that you touched. Tabitha had been writing her obituary her whole life. What did her obituary say?

2. One of the tricks of the devil is to get us to put off serving others generously until our lives are “just right.” How sad if this were an example of our obituary:

- He always planned on helping the poor once he knew that he had enough for himself.
- She had every intention of getting involved in service to her Savior in church or in a community group once things settled down in her life.
- He would have been concerned with the problems in other peoples’ lives, but he had a lot of his own to work through first.
- She was always going to start giving a proportionate amount back to the LORD in her offerings once she had reached her financial goals in her life.

This text gives us many reasons why we will not want to put off a life of generosity. Scan this short account and give at least 3 reasons.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

## **APPLYING IT**

1. We discussed Tabitha’s “Obituary.” She was likely not one of Time magazine’s “100 Most Influential People of 35 AD.” It was a robe here. A penny there. A garment here. A crust of bread there. She may not have been able to give the world, but what she gave meant the world to those who received it. These were the people who were gathered at her funeral. More specifically, what do you want your obituary or “eulogy” to say?
2. We just talked about what you would want said at your funeral. Here’s your chance to “eulogize” someone else in this church family. If you were asked to say a few words about someone else (your pick!), what “robes and other clothing” might you mention about their lives?

## **BLESSING**

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace.  
Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give ✠ you peace.

**C: Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

*BROTHERS, SISTERS, LET US GLADLY* | **CW 748**

## **Welcome to Living Savior**

Welcome! We are glad that you have joined us to worship the Savior at Living Savior.

- Restrooms are located down the second hallway on your right as you leave the church. More restrooms are available in the NW corner of the fellowship hall.
- Please help us be a friendly church by filling out the Connection Card during the service and placing it in the offering plate on the table just outside the sanctuary.
- Would you like to know more about Jesus, the basic teachings of what it means to be a Christian, or the Bible? Please mark the box on the Connection Card or email Pastor Persons for more information: [persons@1791.com](mailto:persons@1791.com).
- If you would like to know more about the ministry of Living Savior, please visit our website, [livingsaviormissoula.org](http://livingsaviormissoula.org).

## **Living Savior Contact Information**

Church Office: (406) 543-8222 [pastor@livingsaviormissoula.com](mailto:pastor@livingsaviormissoula.com)  
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[Livingsaviormissoula.org](http://Livingsaviormissoula.org)

## **Announcements**

Today: Family Bible Hour follows the worship service. Come and grab a coffee and snack and continue digging into God's Word!

Monday: Pastor and Jean leave for Minnesota. If there are any pastoral needs, please don't hesitate to call, text or email. I will alert a neighboring pastor if that may also be necessary. Here is the contact information:

Pastor Steve & Jean Persons

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Phone: Pastor 507-340-6710 Jean: 507-340-8408

Email: Pastor - [persons@1791.com](mailto:persons@1791.com) Jean – [persons.jean50@gmail.com](mailto:persons.jean50@gmail.com)

Friday: 12:30pm, Women's Bible Study at Lynn Bernthal's, 3<sup>rd</sup> Street

### **Encouragement:**

You are a brother or a sister in Christ to the rest of the members of Living Savior. You make them stronger; they make you stronger! Together the many strands of the rope that bind us together in Christ are not easily broken – one strand, struggling by itself, can be easily broken.

My encouragement is to continue meeting together regularly around God's Word and Sacraments. The services throughout February going through March 5<sup>th</sup> are planned to lift you up so that your hands can lift up others as well. Please join together in worship of our gracious, loving God and Savior; join together in offering prayers for each other; join together in offering love and support to each other.

God willing, Jean and I will be back and I will again have the awesome privilege of leading devotions and worship beginning March 8<sup>th</sup>.

God bless you all – today and into the future - with his peace!