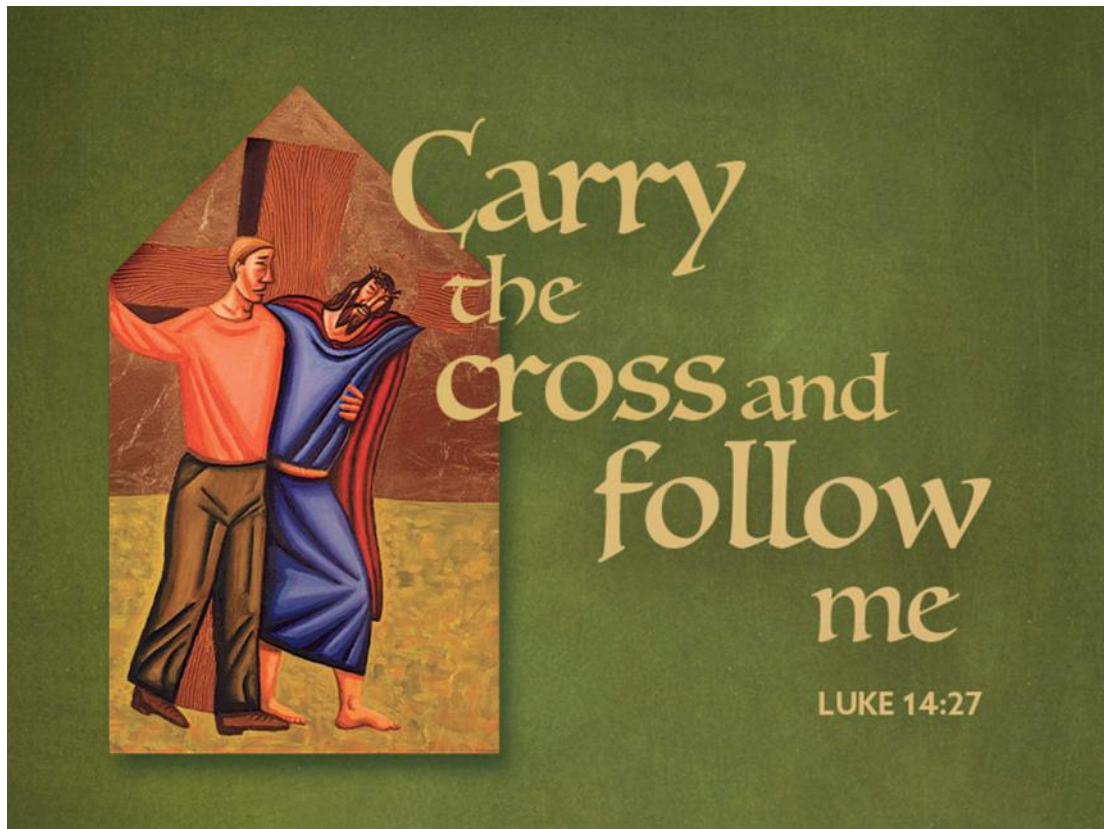


LIVING SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 7, 2025**

*Living Saviour Lutheran Church is a faith community
striving to live and love as Jesus did, eagerly welcoming all
and bringing healing, help, and hope to the world.*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS TODAY:

Assisting Minister – **Glenda Kilminster**

Crucifer – **Riley Skidmore**

Acolyte – **Henry Schwab**

INSTRUMENTALIST TODAY:

Trumpet – **Gordon Hann**

THE ALTAR FLOWERS for this Sunday are given by Terry Sullivan in memory of Dick and Arline Sullivan.

THIS WORSHIP FOLDER contains all elements of the worship service. It is designed to encourage your participation. Please read the words in bold print and join in the singing of all hymns. Italicized words are instructions.

RESTROOMS are located at the back of the sanctuary and down the short hallway.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICES!

Parents, you are always welcome to bring your children to worship with you. If you are comfortable and prefer having them in supervised childcare, it is available and is under the very capable and loving supervision of Ms. Carla. The Childcare Room is down the steps as you enter the gathering area outside the sanctuary. Someone will be happy to direct you there.

- **CHILDREN'S WORSHIP BULLETINS** for readers and non-readers are available on the welcome table where the worship folders are located.
- **QUIET BAGS** for use by children during worship have been updated and arranged by age groups. They are located to the left as you enter the sanctuary. Please feel free to pick one up and replace it on the hooks when you leave.
- **SPARK FAMILY MAGAZINES** are available on the welcome table and are free for the taking!

NEIGHBOR BAGS have been assembled and are located in the blue bin outside of the sanctuary. Please take a few to keep in your car and hand out when the opportunity arises.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES are on page 18.

SEPTEMBER 2025 HEALTH AND WHOLENESS

The September theme for Health and Wholeness is Mind, Body & Spirit Connection.

Tip#1: We are all more than just our thoughts. We are our body, emotions and our spirituality. The mind-body connection is a proven phenomenon that plays a critical role in our overall well-being. Chronic stress can suppress the immune system, leading to illness. Gratitude and joy can increase immune defenses.

John 10:10 Jesus said "The thief comes to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WE GATHER IN CHRIST'S NAME

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Lord, I Want to Be A Christian"
(Gordon Hann, Trumpet)

African American Spiritual
arr. Stan Pethel

Please stand as you are able and face the baptismal font.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity,
✠ one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and placed us in a well-watered garden. In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you washed us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy all who thirst and give us the life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ, our living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

As the cross passes, please turn to the altar.



1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to-day
 2 The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,
 3 Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,

and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-pay;
 its frag-ile bloom sur-ren-der to you, the Lord most high;
 that we who know your fa-vor may serve you as our King;

for we can on-ly won-der at ev-'ry gift you send,
 but hid-den from all na-ture the e-ter-nal seed is sown-
 and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,

at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end:
 though small in mor-tal stat-ure, to heav-en's gar-den grown:
 we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you still:

we lift our hearts be-fore you and wait up-on your word,
 for Christ, your gift from heav-en, from death has set us free,
 to mar-vel at your beau-ty and glo-ry in your ways,

we hon-or and a-dore you, our great and might-y Lord.
 and we through him are giv-en the fi-nal vic-to-ry.
 and make a joy-ful du-ty our sac-ri-fice of praise.

Text: Michael Perry, 1942–1996

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

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GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord God,
**direct us in all the things we do with your continual help, that in all
our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify
your holy name; by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

A reading from Deuteronomy.

¹⁵“See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Philemon 1-21

A reading from Philemon.

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To our beloved coworker Philemon, ² to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus.

⁶ I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸ For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

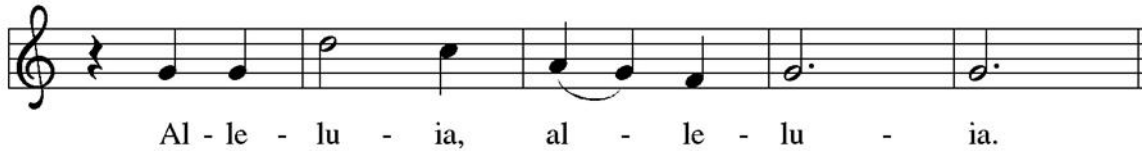
Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

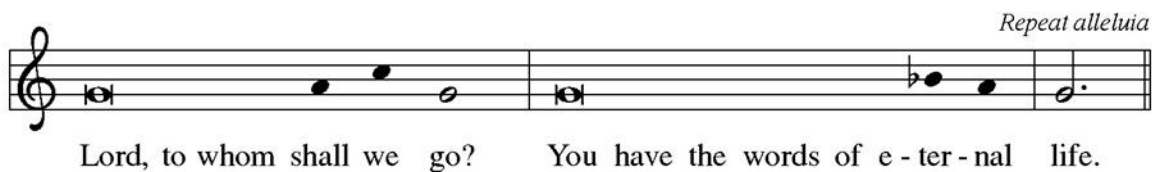
Setting 9

Cantor sings Alleluia. All sing Alleluia.

Cantor sings verse. All repeat Alleluia.



Verse



GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Sara Ilderton

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Faith Begins by Letting Go"

ACS 1004



- 1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,
- 2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - ry's roots a - live
- 3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,



tak - ing risks and press - ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,
shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;



pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.
not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.
till we find the com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people. We pray for this congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ, and deepen our support of one another. We pray that our sharing of faith may transform lives, our own and others.

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for creation, that we may cherish and nurture it. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places affected by calamities; and shield coastlands from rising seas.

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good.

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We pray for those who are sick, hungry, unhoused, or lonely, especially those we name aloud or in silence... May they find healing through your love and the care of those around them. Lead us to be your hands and feet in the world.

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We thank you for the lives of those who have died and now dwell with the saints. Surround them with your divine mercy, that they find peace and rest in your loving embrace.

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

After exchanging the peace with those near you, please be seated.

WE SHARE THE SUPPER OF THE LORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and make good your vows to the Most High.

Psalm 50:14

The offering plate is passed. You may also give electronically using the QR code on the back cover.

MUSICAL OFFERING "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above" Williamson

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Lord of the harvest,
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provides for us.
Multiply what we have gathered
to bless all who are suffering and in need,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our privilege and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty and merciful,
your people praise you, saying:
Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise
you bound yourself to earth and all its creatures,
granting them life and calling them to flourish.
Your mercy endures forever.

By your promise
you bound yourself to your people of old,
blessing them with family outnumbering the stars
and calling them to be a blessing to others,
showing them steadfast love in every generation
and calling them to be a light to the nations.
Your mercy endures forever.

>>>Cont'd>>>

By your promise
you sent Jesus, your Son who came to live among us,
was betrayed and denied,
abused and put to death.
He rose again
and came with the message of peace to those
who had denied him and abandoned him.

Your mercy endures forever.

The celebrant continues with the Words of Institution.

With this bread and cup
we remember his life laid down and lifted up
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us
and these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless us to be a blessing.
Send us to serve the world with mercy and love.

With all the saints in light,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God, through Christ Jesus,
in your Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Please be seated.

An usher will direct you forward for Communion.

Communion is served around the altar rail. You may kneel or stand.

We use wheat wafers and wine. If you need a gluten free wafer, please make that known to the pastor.

For any who desire a blessing, please come forward with your arms crossed.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

*The body of Christ given for you.
The blood of Christ shed for you.*

COMMUNION HYMN

"Lamb of God"

ELW Setting 9

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

MUSIC DURING SHARING OF BREAD AND WINE

Please join in singing the hymns.

"United at the Table"

ELW 498

Refrain / Estribillo

U - ni - dos en la fie - ta, la_a - le - grí - a
U - nit - ed at the ta - ble: all our joy is

se_ha - ce can - ción. U - ni - dos en la fe,
joined in song. U - nit - ed in the faith:

la_a - le - grí - a se_ha - ce_o - ra - ción.
all our joy to God be - longs.

1 Can - ta - re - mos al Se - ñor
1 We will praise God, we will sing
2 We will praise God, we will feast
3 We will praise God, we will play

a - le - lu - yas con him - nos y sal - mos,
al - le - lu - ias with hymns and with psalm - o - dy;
at the boun - ti - ful ta - ble of life and grace;
al - le - lu - ias with rhy - thm and in - stru - ments;

por - que gran - de_es el a - mor
we will praise God for the love
we will praise God and give thanks
we will praise God for the love

Refrain / Estribillo

que_en no - so - tros por siem - pre mos - tró.
that sus - tains us e - ter - nal - ly.
for com - mu - nion with ev - 'ry race.
that in - vites all cre - a - tion to dance.

"Guide My Feet"

ACS 987

Leader All

1 Guide my feet
2 Hold my hand
3 Stand by me while I run this race.
4 I'm your child
5 Search my heart

Yes, my Lord!

Guide my feet
Hold my hand
Stand by me while I run this race.
I'm your child
Search my heart

Yes, my Lord!

Guide my feet
Hold my hand
Stand by me while I run this race,
I'm your child
Search my heart

for I don't want to run this race in vain.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: GUIDE MY FEET, African American spiritual; arr. *This Far by Faith*

Arr. © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

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Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a - lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia!
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!

Please stand as you are able.

COMMUNION BLESSING

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood, strengthen, keep and unite us now and forever.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

O God,
**through this meal you have strengthened us
 and appointed us to be your servants.
 Send us to do good, striving to live and love as Jesus did, eagerly
 welcoming all and bringing healing, help, and hope to the world.
 We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

WE ARE SENT TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

BLESSING

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
 so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit;
 and may the God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song"

ELW 808



1 *Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te;*
1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;
2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,
4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;



Jé - sus, je vou - drais t'an-non-cer à mes voi - sins par - tout,
I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:
May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.
to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.
but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.



car toi seul es la vie et la paix et l'a - mour:
you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.
And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,



Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te.
Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.
Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

"To God Alone Be Glory"

Dixon

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“Faith Begins by Letting Go”

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

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“United at the Table”

Text: Joaquín Madurga; tr. Angel Mattos, b. 1947, and Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923

Music: UNIDOS EN LA FIESTA, Joaquín Madurga

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“Come Fill Our Hearts”

Text: Psalm 136:1 (Latin); Taizé Community

Music: CONFITEMINI DOMINO, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

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THIS WEEK AT LIVING SAVIOUR

Sunday: September 7

- 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- 9:15 a.m. Chancel Choir
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship

Monday: September 8

- 8:00 a.m. Ready Set 4 ABA
- 6:15 p.m. Yoga 4 You
- 7:00 p.m. Scout Troop 165

Tuesday: September 9

- 6:30 a.m. Primary Election
- 8:00 a.m. Ready Set 4 ABA
- 9:30 a.m. Yoga 4 You
- 10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 6:45 p.m. Cub Scouts Pack 265

Wednesday: September 10

- 8:00 a.m. Ready Set 4 ABA
- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday: September 11

- 8:00 a.m. Ready Set 4 ABA
- 9:30 a.m. Yoga 4 You
- 11:00 a.m. Chair Yoga
- 6:15 p.m. Yoga 4 You
- 6:15 p.m. Gathering@theTable

Friday: September 12

- 8:00 a.m. Ready Set 4 ABA

Saturday: September 13

- 10:00 a.m. Yoga 4 You

Sunday: September 14

- 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- 9:15 a.m. Chancel Choir
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship



LIVING SAVIOUR

Lutheran Church

Living Saviour Lutheran Church
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Charlotte, North Carolina 28226
(704) 542-3626

The Reverend Sara Ilderton, Pastor
Don Huff, Director of Music Ministry
Nancy Mersereau, Assistant Musician
Laura Schwab, Administrative Assistant
Susan Hall, Treasurer
Elsie Davis, LS Preschool Director

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