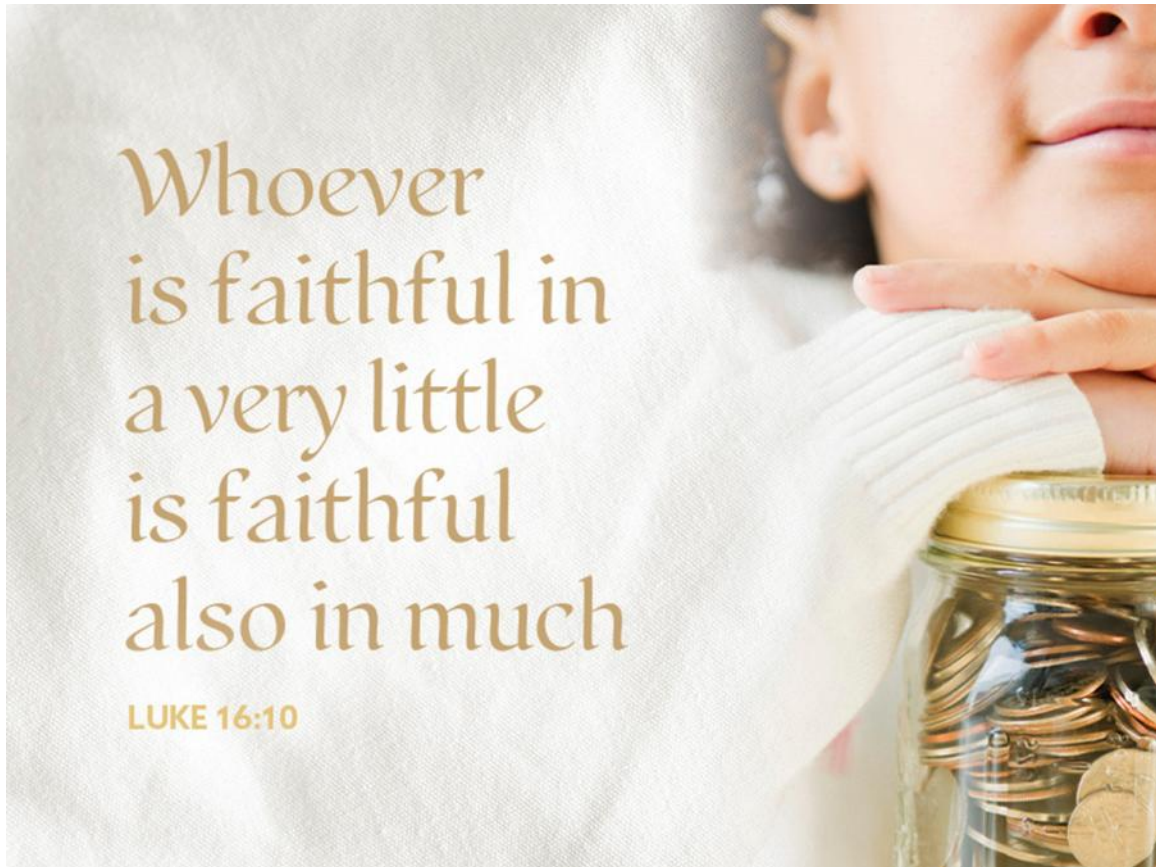


LIVING SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 21, 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 – **Kay Zimmerman**
Crucifer - **Addison Noonkester**
Acolyte - **Henry Schwab**

INSTRUMENTALIST TODAY:

Trumpet - **Gordon Hann**

THE ALTAR FLOWERS for this Sunday are given by Laura & Mike Schwab in celebration of their 10th wedding anniversary.

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.

NOISY OFFERING for September will go to Firefighter Cancer Support Network (FCSN). FCSN offers free badge-to-badge peer support to fire/EMS members and their immediate families. FSN's network includes volunteer peer-support mentors – nearly all are firefighters and paramedics who are cancer survivors themselves. FCSN's network also includes mentors for spouses and children.

SEPTEMBER 2025 HEALTH AND WHOLENESS

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

Tip#3: Signs of imbalance in mind-body connection:

1. High blood pressure, headaches, stomach problems
2. Mood swings
3. Unexplained fatigue
4. Frequent illness
5. Muscle tension and pain

Awareness of bodily sensations leads to better understanding of the emotional and mental state. Practices such as mindfulness of your body and attitude, yoga, and deep breathing exercises reduce anxiety and promote healing.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WE GATHER IN CHRIST'S NAME

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"
(Janet Axtman and Pastor Sara Ilderton, flutes)

Cherwein

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God whose mercy endures forever.

Trusting in God's mercy,
let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Lord of creation,
**we confess that we have squandered your gifts
and used them as if they had been given for us alone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be obedient to your will,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful service,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Siblings in Christ, while it is true that we have not been faithful in all things,
God is faithful, and welcomes us with loving and forgiving arms.
Therefore, with joy I tell you that your sins are forgiven
in the name of the Father, and the + Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

*Please turn to face the processional cross.
As the cross passes, please turn to the altar.*



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
 2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
 Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
 hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
 Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
 Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
 By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
 by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
 we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
 quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
 grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

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.

God among us,

we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Please be seated.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

READING: Amos 8:4-7

A reading from Amos.

- ⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
⁵ saying, "When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain,
and the Sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale?
We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier
and practice deceit with false balances,
⁶ buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."
⁷ The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 113

Please sing responsively.

Cantor/Assembly

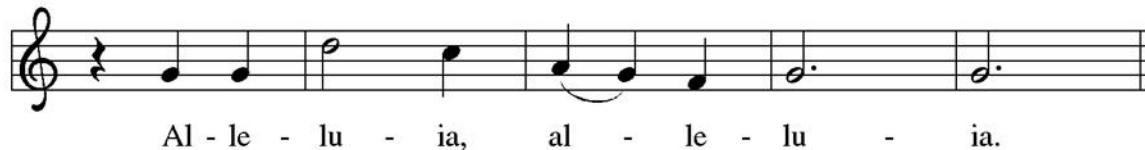
- ¹ Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants ¹ of the LORD;
praise the name ¹ of the LORD.
- ² **Let the name of the ¹ LORD be blessed,
from this time forth for- ¹ evermore.**
- ³ From the rising of the sun to its ¹ going down
let the name of the ¹ LORD be praised.
- ⁴ **The LORD is high a- ¹ bove all nations;
God's glory a- ¹ bove the heavens.**
- ⁵ Who is like the ¹ LORD our God,
who sits en- ¹ throned on high,
- ⁶ **but stoops ¹ to behold
the heavens ¹ and the earth?**
- ⁷ The LORD takes up the weak out ¹ of the dust
and lifts up the poor ¹ from the ashes,
- ⁸ **enthroning them ¹ with the rulers,
with the rulers ¹ of the people.**
- ⁹ The LORD makes the woman of a ¹ childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. ¹ Hallelujah!

Please stand as you are able.

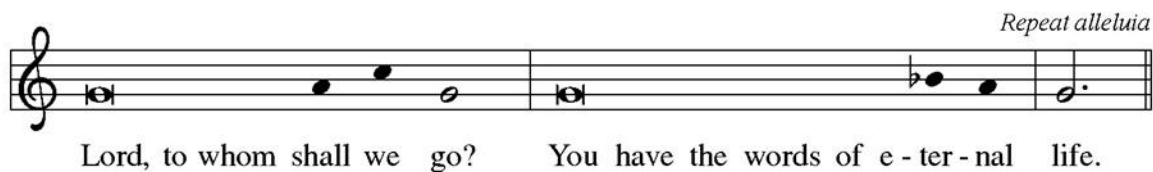
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Setting 9

*Cantor sings Alleluia. All sing Alleluia.
Cantor sings verse. All repeat Alleluia.*



Verse



GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' ³ Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' ⁵ So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶ He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' ⁷ Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE/NOISY OFFERING

SERMON

Pastor Sara Ilderton

HYMN OF THE DAY “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending” ELW 678



- 1 God, whose giv-ing knows no end-ing, from your rich and end-less store:
- 2 Skills and time are ours for press-ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
- 3 Trea-sure, too, you have en-trust-ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con-ferred;



na-ture's won-der, Je-sus' wis-dom, cost-ly cross, grave's shat-tered door,
 all at peace in health and free-dom, rac-es joined, the church made one.
 ours to use for home and kin-dred, and to spread the gos-pel word.



gift-ed by you, we turn to you, of-f'ring up our-selves in praise;
 Now di-rect our dai-ly la-bor, lest we strive for self a-lone;
 O-pen wide our hands in shar-ing, as we heed Christ's age-less call,



thank-ful song shall rise for-ev-er, gra-cious do-nor of our days.
 born with tal-ents, make us ser-vants fit to an-swer at your throne.
 heal-ing, teach-ing, and re-claim-ing, serv-ing you by lov-ing all.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

O God, teach your church to act on behalf of the poor, frustrating the efforts of those who trample on the needy and practicing your justice in our own life and community. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Almighty Creator, we pray for an end to the misuse of the earth and its resources, that all people may benefit from your abundant gifts and that our stewardship of creation would be marked by justice and sustainability. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Holy One, embolden elected leaders to pursue policies of economic fairness for the benefit of all, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. Persuade them by your example of generosity and compassion. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Compassionate God, we pray for all facing illness, those near death, or those grieving the loss of loved ones especially those we name silently or aloud... May they find comfort and strength in your love. Prepare us to surround them with your healing care. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Gracious God, we give thanks for the saints who now join the heavenly chorus in praising your name. Lift us up from the dust of grief and remind us of your promise of new life. 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

"Praise the Lord"

Handel

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING HYMN

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

W&P 35

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are: "Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve you; cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, that I might be re - newed. So fill me and heal me, and bring me back to you. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve you." The score consists of five staves of music. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: F, C/E, C/D Dm, Dm/C, Bb, Gm, C7sus, C7, F, C/E, C/D Dm, Dm/C, Gm, F/A, C, F, Am7, Dm7, Am7, Dm7, Gm7, Gm/D, C7sus, C7, F, C/E, C/D Dm, Dm/C, Gm, F/A, C, F.

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,

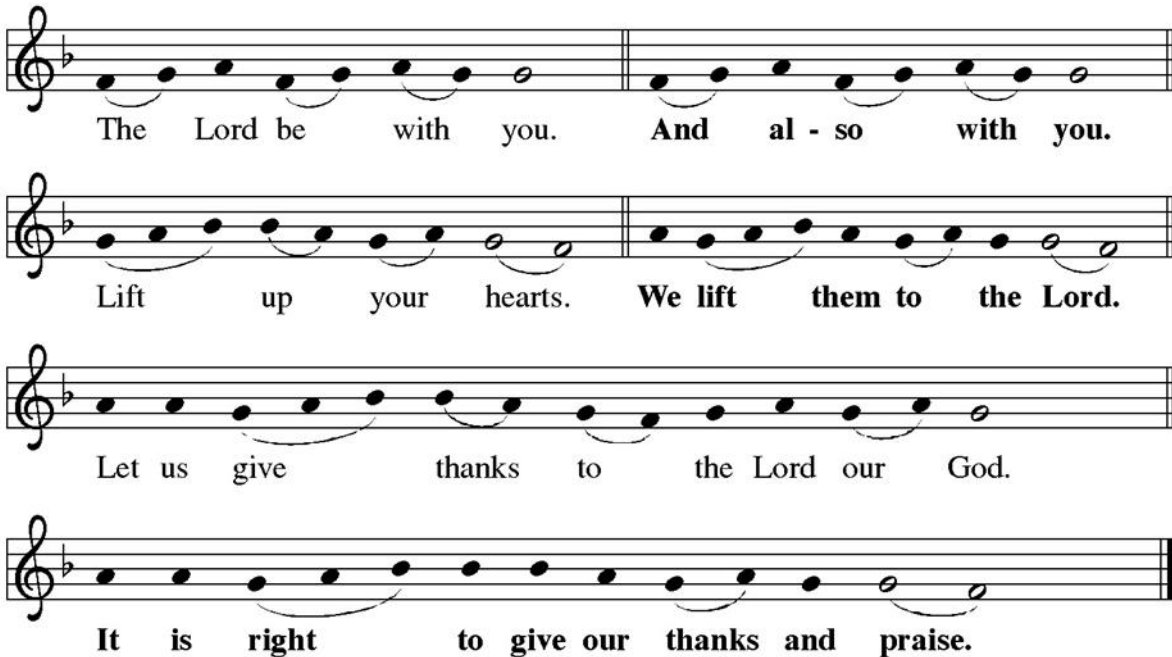
but on you, who richly provides for us.

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 al - so 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:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy,
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
who stretched out his arms on the hard wood of the cross
that all might come within his saving embrace.

The celebrant continues with the Words of Institution.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

We ask you to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be transformed by your grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may we live as your holy people.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, 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. White grape juice is also available.

For any who desire a blessing, please come to the altar rail with your arms crossed.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

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

HYMNS DURING SHARING OF BREAD AND WINE

Please join in singing the hymns.

"Be Known to Us Lord Jesus"

ACS Setting 12

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

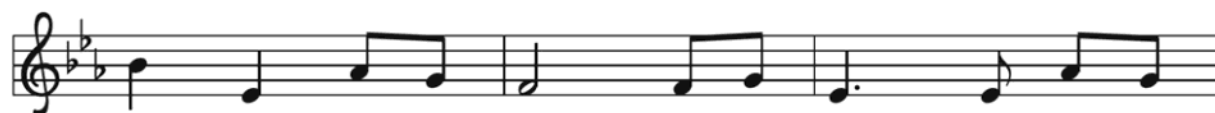
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

"Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken"

ACS 966



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
 2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a
 3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in
 4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



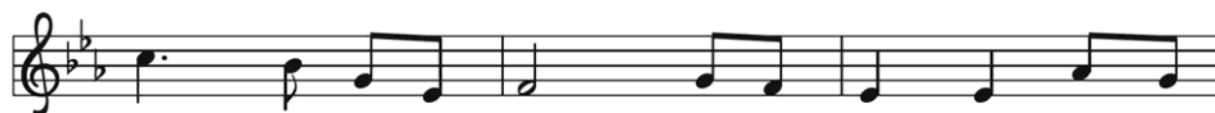
Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
 qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you
 faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the
 in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions



heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
 gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
 a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"
 hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff. It consists of six lines of music. The first line begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some triplets indicated by a '3' over the notes. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. The second line continues the melody and lyrics. The third line features a triplet of eighth notes. The fourth line includes a B-flat note, indicating a change in the key signature. The fifth line continues the melody. The sixth line ends with a double bar line and includes a triplet of eighth notes. The lyrics are: "We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering, we are an offering."

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an

of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our

lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,

all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:

we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

Text: Dwight Liles, b. 1957
 Music: Dwight Liles
 Text and music © 1984 Word Music, LLC

OFFERING
 PM

Take, oh, take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be;

set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Take, Oh Take Me As I Am". It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system covers the first two lines of the hymn, and the second system covers the next two lines. The music is written in a simple, accessible style, with many chords and some melodic lines.

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 as we strive 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 righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"Rise Up, O Saints of God!"

ELW 669



- 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
- 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
- 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
- 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
- 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ goes with you.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Payne

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Confession and Forgiveness: posted on the Pacific Pilgrim website.
<https://pacificpilgrim.co>. Adapted.

“Son of God, Eternal Savior”

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855–1932

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915–2006

Music: RUSTINGTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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“Take, Oh Take Me As I Am”

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell

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“Rise Up, O Saints of God!”

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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THIS WEEK AT LIVING SAVIOUR

Sunday: September 21

- 9:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation
- 9:15 a.m. Children's Sunday School
- 9:15 a.m. Chancel Choir
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 12:00 p.m. Council Meeting

Monday: September 22

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

Tuesday: September 23

- 8:00 a.m. Ready Set 4 ABA
- 6:45 p.m. Cub Scouts Pack 265

Wednesday: September 24

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

Thursday: September 25

- 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 26

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

Saturday: September 27

- 9:30 a.m. WELCA Fall Gathering
- 10:00 a.m. Yoga 4 You

Sunday: September 28

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



LIVING SAVIOUR

Lutheran Church

Living Saviour Lutheran Church
6817 Carmel Road
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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