LIVING SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST OCTOBER 19, 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 - **Dan Haseley** Crucifer - **Rhys Plunkett** Acolyte - **Cole Plunkett**

INSTRUMENTALIST TODAY:

Trumpet - **Gordon Hann** Woodwinds - **Barbara Tobin**

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given by Mark and Julie Brennan in memory of Emily, Joseph, Jeffery and Mark Jr. Brennan and Jane & Edward Uecker.

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 22.

NOISY OFFERING for October will go to Safe Alliance. Safe Alliance is a non-profit agency with more than 100 years of service to individuals and families in Mecklenburg county who have been impacted by domestic violence and sexual abuse. Their mission is to provide hope and healing for those impacted by domestic violence and sexual assault. They do this through a variety of programs and services. To learn more, visit their website: https://www.safealliance.org/

OCTOBER 2025 HEALTH AND WHOLENESS

The October theme for Health and Wholeness is Comfort Through Grief and Loss.

Tip#3: Seek out face-to-face support from people who care about you. Friends often want to help but are unsure of what you need. Allow others to help you. Talking things out and sharing memories can help you to heal.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the 'Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WE GATHER IN CHRIST'S NAME

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"If My People Will Pray" (Judy Frye, piano)

Owens, arr. Bock

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, who is eager to forgive and who loves us beyond our days. **Amen.**

Dear friends, together let us acknowledge our failure to love as Jesus does.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy and forgiveness,
we confess that sin still has a hold on us.
We have harmed your good creation.
We have failed to do justice,
love kindness,
and walk humbly with you.
Turn us in a new direction.
Show us the patch that leads to life.
Be our refuge and strength on the journey,
though Jeus Christ, our redeemer and friend.
Amen.

Beloved of God:

Your sins are forgiven \pm and you are made whole. God points the way to a new life in Christ, who meets us on the road.

Journey now in God's abiding love through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**.

Please stand as you are able and turn to face the processional cross. As the cross passes your row, please turn to face the altar.



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, tireless guardian of your people,

you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST READING: Genesis 32:22-31

A reading from Genesis.

²² The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." ³¹ The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:5

A reading from Timothy.

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

^{4:1} In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ² proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵ As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

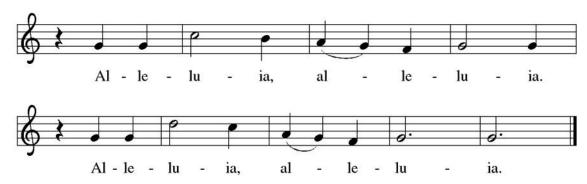
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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



Verse:



Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e-ter-nal life.

GOSPEL: Luke 18:1-8

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ²He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' ⁴ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " ⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

The gospel of the Lord.

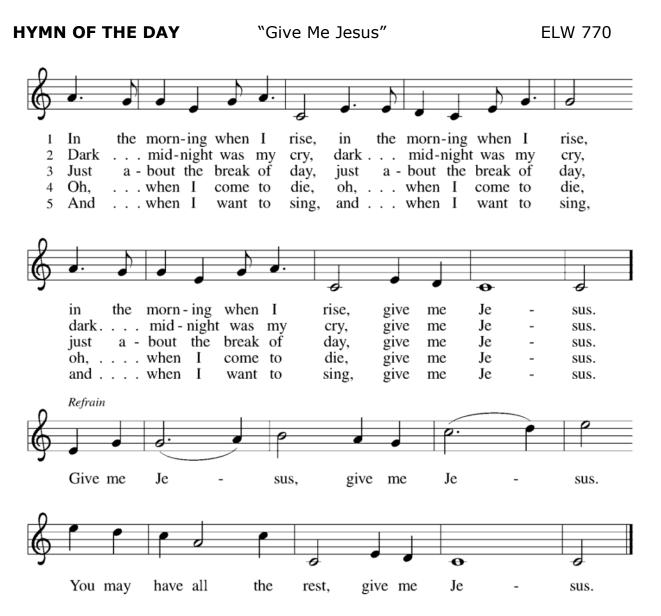
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE/NOISY OFFERING

SERMON

Pastor Sara Ilderton

Please stand as you are able.



Text: African American spiritual Music: GIVE ME JESUS, African American spiritual

Please be seated.

BAPTISM OF CHARLES ALLEN PARHAM AND MATTHEW SCOTT PARHAM

PRESENTATION

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. By water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

The presiding minister addresses the parents:

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Charles and Matthew baptized?

Response: We do.

As you bring your children to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with them among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, and nurture them in faith and prayer, so that they may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Charles and Matthew grow in the Christian faith and life as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church? *Response:* We do.

Please stand as you are able.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to support Charles and Matthew and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

Response: We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to reject sin, profess your faith in Christ and confess the faith of the church.

The presiding minister addresses the parents and assembly:

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God? *All respond:*

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God? *All respond:*

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God? *All respond:*

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, for in the beginning your Spirit brooded over the waters and you created the world by your Word, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through water you led your people Israel from slavery in Egypt into freedom in the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan Jesus was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you delivered us from the power of sin and death and set us free to live in you.

Send your Holy Spirit upon this water and upon all who are washed in it, that they may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

BAPTISM

Charles Allen Parham, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Matthew Scott Parham, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your children new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Charles and Matthew with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

The minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the newly baptized.

Charles, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

Matthew, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

BAPTISMAL HYMN: "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"

He's got the whole world in his hands (4x).

He's got the wind and the rain in his hands (3x). He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got Charlie and Matty in his hands (3x). He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got everybody here in his hands (3x). He's got the whole world in his hands.

WELCOME

Lighted candles may be given to a member of the baptismal party.

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you to the Lord's family. We receive you as fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father and a worker with us in the kingdom of God.

We welcome Charles and Matthew with applause.

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church universal. O God, who unites the church across the globe, bring unity and peace to a world divided by hatred and opposition. Guide this congregation of Living Saviour. Nurture our relationships with the community, that we serve to advocate for those who come to us in need.

God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for creation. O God, who made heaven and earth, draw us to the beauty of the whole creation. Turn us toward a right relationship with the entire cosmos.

God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for all nations, states, cities, and towns. O God, you rule over all the earth. Grant our elected officials humility in their decision-making for the sake of the entire world.

God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. O God, who heals and strengthens, our help comes from you in times of need. Support, comfort, and heal those who suffer especially those we name aloud or in silence...

God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We offer thanksgiving for the faithful departed. O God, whose promises never end, we thank you for all the saints who have shown us the way of your Son, Jesus Christ.

God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

"Psalm of Ascents"

Pysh

(Text: Psalm 121/Barbara Tobin, soprano saxophone)

Please stand as you are able.

C/E

ate in me

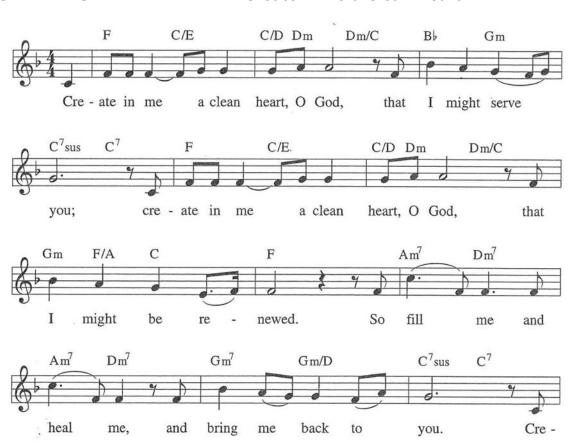
C/D Dm

a clean heart, O God,

OFFERING HYMN

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

W&P 35



Dm/C

that

Gm

I

F/A

C

might serve

F

you.

OFFERING PRAYER

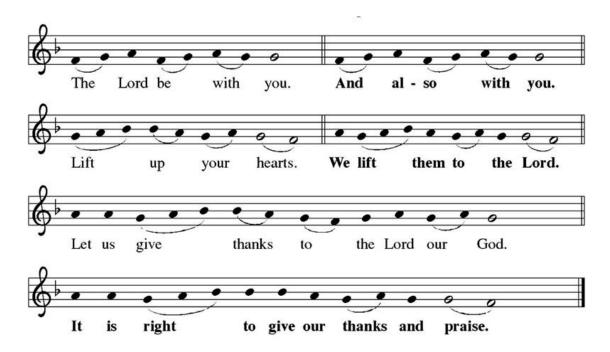
Let us pray.

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.

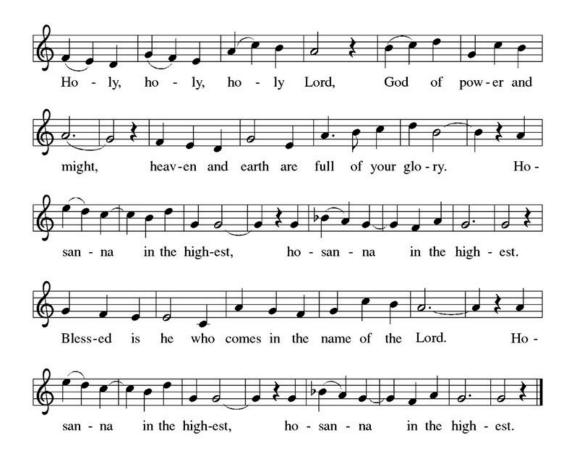
Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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.

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

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight.
He is your Word, sent from heaven, born of Mary, to take on our human nature.
He stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.
He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, destroyed death, breaking the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot.

The celebrant continues with the Word of Institution.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we proclaim the mystery of faith:



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.

Send your Spirit upon these your gifts of bread and wine.

Gather into one all who share this holy meal,
filling us with your Holy Spirit,
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ;
through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.



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.

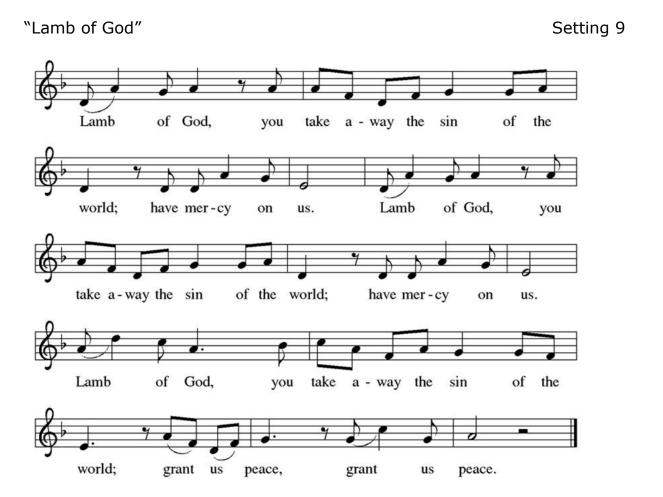
We use wheat wafers, wine and white grape juice. If you need a gluten free wafer, please make that known to the pastor.

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

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

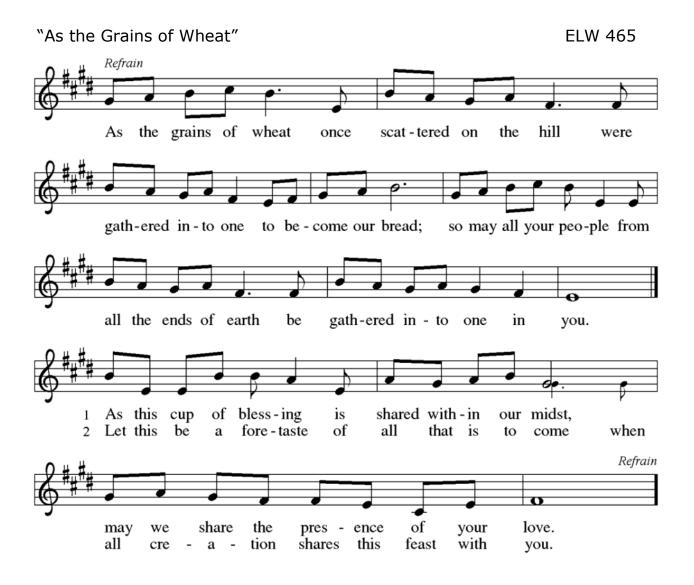
The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

COMMUNION HYMN

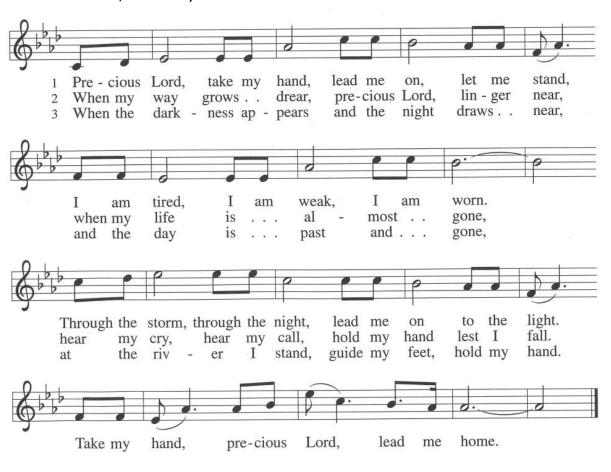


MUSIC DURING SHARING OF BREAD AND WINE

Please join in singing the hymns.



Flute Solo: "Wash, O God Your Sons and Daughters" Anne K Organ (Barbara Tobin, Flute)





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

God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace.

And may the Holy Trinity, + one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

"Let Justice Flow Like Streams"

ELW 717



- 1 Let jus tice flow like streams of spar-kling wa ter, pure,
- 2 Let righ-teous-ness roll on as oth ers' cares we heed, 3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de fine our mea sure true,
- 0

en - a-bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans-ing, sure.

en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans-ing, sure. an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans-lat - ed in - to deed. and jus-tice, right, and peace per-vade this world our whole life through.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926

Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731-1776

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

"Lift High the Cross"

Weber

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"We Sing to You, O God"

Rati Gracia Grindal, b. 1943 Music: John Ireland, 1879—1962 Ru O 1993 Selah Publishing Co., Inc. Music O 1924 John Ireland, admin. The John Ireland Trust LOVE UNKNOWN 66 12 38

Afternate tune: RHOSYMEDRE

"As the Grains of Wheat"

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899–1993 Music: George N. Allen, 1812–1877, adapt. Thomas A. Dorsey Text and music © 1938, 1966 Unichappell Music Inc., admin. Hal Leonard Corp. PRECIOUS LORD Irregular

"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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THIS WEEK AT LIVING SAVIOUR

Sunday: October 19

- 9:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation
- 9:15 a.m. Children's Sunday School
- 9:15 a.m. Chancel Choir
- 9:15 a.m. Ministry Fair
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 11:45 a.m. Ministry Fair
- 12:30 p.m. Monthly Council Meeting

Monday: October 20

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

Tuesday: October 21

- 8:00 a.m. Ready Set 4 ABA
- 9:30 a.m. Yoga 4 You
- 6:45 p.m. Cub Scouts Pack 265

Wednesday: October 22

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

Thursday: October 23

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

Friday: October 24

8:00 a.m. Ready Set 4 ABA

Saturday: October 25

10:00 a.m. Yoga 4 You

Sunday: October 26

- 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 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

QR for donating online:



