

LIVING SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JANUARY 18, 2026

*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 - **John Williams**

Crucifer - **Riley Skidmore**

Acolyte - **Charlie Parham**

INSTRUMENTALIST TODAY:

Trumpet - **Gordon Hann**

Woodwinds - **Barbara Tobin**

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!

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES are on page 22.

NOISY OFFERING for January will go to **Pineville Neighbors Place**. Pineville Neighbors Place is a non-profit established in 2016 to serve those struggling with poverty and homelessness. Their services are available to anyone living in the 28134 zip code or have students at Pineville and Sterling Elementary schools.

2026 HEALTH AND WHOLENESS

The January theme is Making a New You!

Tip#3: Choose foods that give life. Healthy eating doesn't require strict rules. Focus on eating nourishing foods-more fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and water, rather than focusing on what to avoid. Preparing meals with care can be an act of gratitude, reminding us that God provides what we need to sustain both body and spirit.

1 Corinthians 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

WE GATHER IN CHRIST'S NAME

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Partita on Simple Gifts"
(Sandra Sample, piano)

Noel Goemanne

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters.

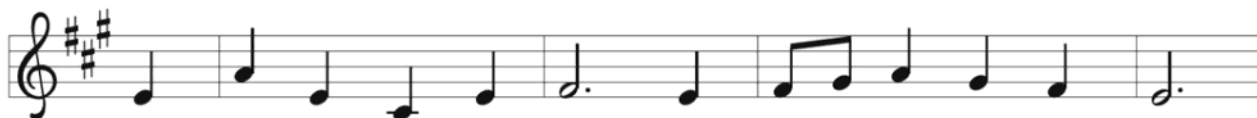
Amen.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Mighty God, lover of justice,
**you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.
We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.
We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.
Turn us to seek your face.
Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

The former things have passed away,
and new things God now declares:
Like a spring of water that never fails,
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,
and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name.
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace.
Amen.

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



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

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

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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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Setting One

Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and

Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus

Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

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

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

>>>Cont'd>>>

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *continued*



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -

lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Holy God, our strength and our redeemer,
by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

PSALM: Psalm 40:1-11

Please read responsively.

¹ I waited patiently for the Lord;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.

² **He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.**

³ He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord.

⁴ **Happy are those who make the Lord their trust,
who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods.**

⁵ You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts
toward us; none can compare with you.
Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.

⁶ **Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
but you have given me an open ear.
Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.**

⁷ Then I said, "Here I am;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me.

⁸ **I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart."**

⁹ I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation;
see, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord.

¹⁰ **I have not hidden your saving help within my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;
I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness
from the great congregation.**

¹¹ Do not, O Lord, withhold your mercy from me;
let your steadfast love and your faithfulness keep me safe forever.

READING: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

A reading from Corinthians.

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

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

⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.

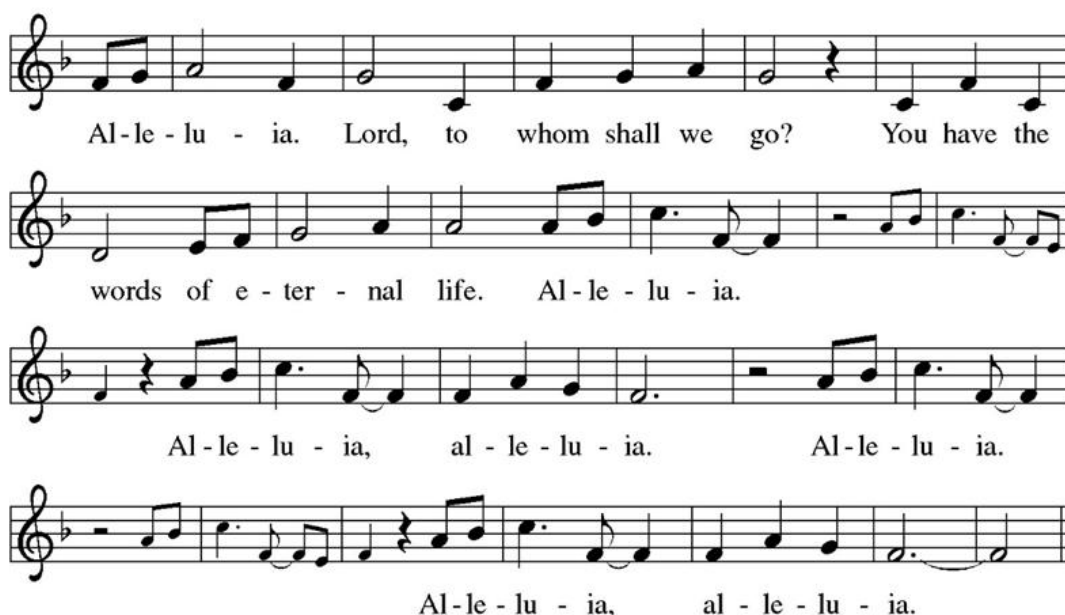
⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able to welcome the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: John 1:29-42

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹ [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"³⁰ This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel."³² And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him."³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!"³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?"³⁹ He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed).⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE/NOISY OFFERING

SERMON

Pastor Sara Ilderton

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Making Their Way"

ACS 979



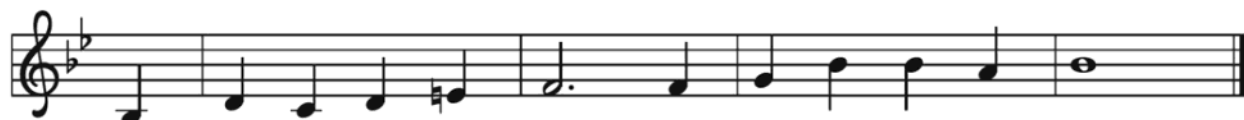
1 Mak-ing their way down through the a - ges, sin - ners and saints have
2 Mak-ing their way all the world o - ver, Chris - tians as - sem - ble
3 Mak-ing our way sea - son by sea-son, pil - grims, we jour - ney



heard God's call: wealth - y and poor, pow - er - ful, low - ly,
on this day, hear - ing the Word, shar - ing the Ban - quet,
till life's end, trav - el - ing light, shar - ing the rich - es,



Je - sus' dis - ci - ples, one and all. Gath-ered for wor-ship, of - fer-ing thanks,
learn-ing to walk in Je-sus' way. Mem-bers of Christ, u - nit - ed in love,
car - ing for strang-er as for friend, till in the joy of long-ing ful-filled,



the great-est with the least have come to share this feast.
they seek our God to know, and so to - geth - er grow.
to - geth - er we will come to our e - ter - nal home.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: KOMT NU MET ZANG, A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclank*, 1626

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

Gracious God, gather the church into one great fellowship. Equip your people to work together for justice and peace, remembering especially the example of Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, whose birth we remember this week. As a congregation, remind us of our mission to serve and love one another.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Creating God, sustain the web of life on this planet. Protect wild places, endangered species, and vulnerable habitats. Come to the aid of those affected by natural disasters.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Just God, you desire respect, equality and equity for everyone. Raise up prophets who speak truth to the nations. Embolden leaders and those in authority to advocate for people in need.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Healing God, you lift up those who are bowed down by trouble, oppression, or illness. We pray especially for those we name silently or aloud... Bring an end to social injustice and inequities of every kind, so that all people may have abundant life.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Faithful God, you promise to be with us always. We remember with gratitude the faithful departed who now rest in you. Strengthen us to the end, that we may see you face to face.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

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

Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

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

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult"

*Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea,
day by day his clear voice sounding,
saying, "Christian, follow me":*

*Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more."*

*In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these."*

*Jesus calls us! By your mercy,
Savior, may we hear your call,
give our hearts to your obedience,
serve and love you best of all.*

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895

OFFERING HYMN

"We Place Upon Your Table, Lord"

ELW 467:1,3



1 We place up - on your ta - ble, Lord, where you by
2 With - in these sim - ple things there lie the height and
3 Ac - cept them, Lord; they come from you; we take them



grace have bid us dine, these to - kens of our dai - ly
depth of hu - man life: our pain and tears, our thoughts and
hum - bly from your hand; put these your gifts to high - er



work, the food of life, the bread and wine.
toils, our hopes and fears, our joy and strife.
use: the ho - ly meal that you com - mand.

Text: M. F. C. Wilson, 1884–1944, alt.

Music: DISTRESS, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835*Please stand as you are able.***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God of majesty,

no eye has seen, no ear has heard**what you have prepared for those who love you,****yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.****Use what we have gathered****to feed us with the reign of God come near,****Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our privilege, and our joy that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord.

Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love,
that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light.
And so, 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'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O holy God:
you are the Life and Light of all.
By your powerful word you created all things.
Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.
He is your Light, shining in our darkness
and revealing to us your mercy and might.

The celebrant continues with the Words of Institution.

Remembering, therefore,
his preaching and healing,
his dying and rising,
and his promise to come again,
we await that day when all the universe
will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal,
that, refreshed with this heavenly food,
we may be light for the world,
revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Please be seated.

An usher will direct you forward for Communion.

Communion is served at the head of the aisle.

We use wheat wafers, white grape juice 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.

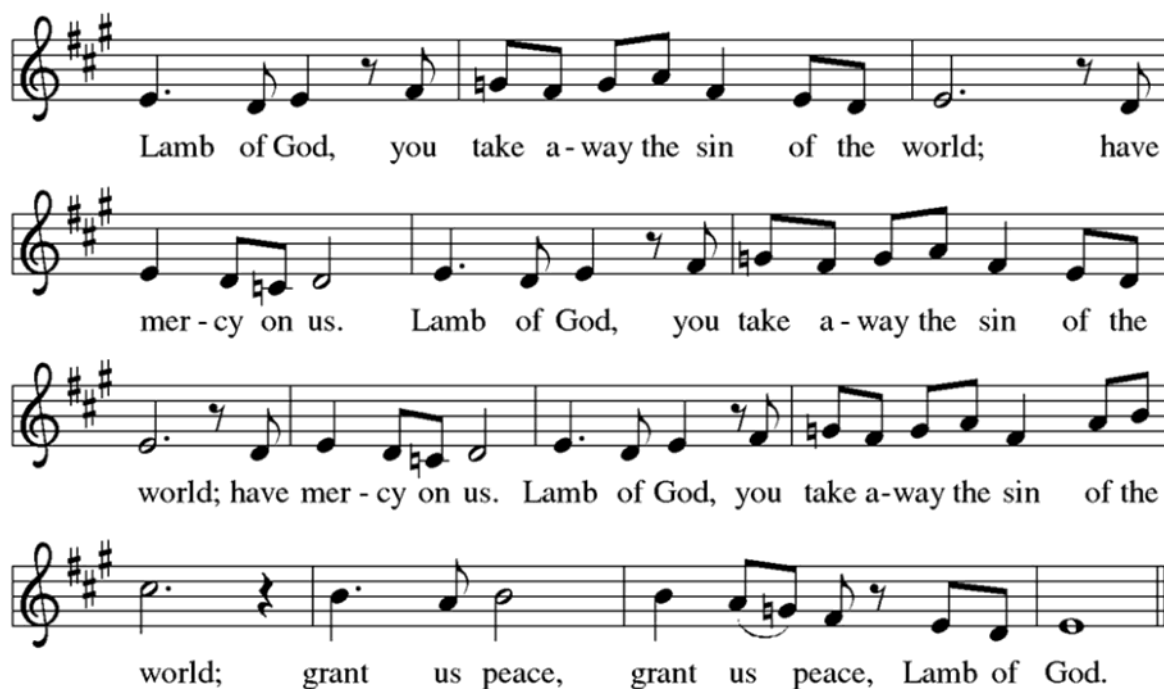
SHARING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

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

COMMUNION HYMN

"Lamb of God"

Setting 8



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, Lamb of God.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion Anthem

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

Kathleen Thomerson

Communion Hymn - *Please join in singing.*

"Jesus, Come! For We Invite You"

ELW 312



1 Je - sus, come! for we in - vite you, guest and mas - ter,
2 Je - sus, come! trans-form our plea - sures, guide us in - to
3 Je - sus, come! in new cre - a - tion, heav'n brought near in
4 Je - sus, come! sur - prise our dull - ness, make us will - ing



friend and Lord; now, as once at Ca - na's wed - ding,
paths un - known; bring your gifts, com-mand your ser - vants,
pow'r di - vine; give your un - ex - pect - ed glo - ry,
to re - ceive more than we can yet im - ag - ine,



speak and let us hear your word: lead us through our need or
let us trust in you a - lone: though your hand may work in
chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine: rouse the faith of your dis -
all the best you have to give: let us find your hid - den



doubt - ing, hope be born and joy re - stored.
se - cret, all shall see what you have done.
ci - ples— come, our first and great - est Sign!
rich - es, taste your love, be - lieve, and live!

Text: Christopher Idle, b. 1938

Music: UNION SEMINARY, Harold Friedell, 1905–1958

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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.

Radiant God,

**in the sacrament of the body and blood of Jesus Christ,
you have drawn us to your heart.**

**Send us from this table with delight,
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,
so that we may be nourished to bring healing, help and
hope to the world through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

WE ARE SENT TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

FAREWELL AND GODSPEED

Judy Frye

BLESSING

May the triune God,
who has put a new song in your mouth
and tuned your heart for praise
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"Light Dawns on a Weary World"

ELW 726



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.



Refrain

The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. Walk humbly with your God.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

"How Brightly Shines the Morning Star"

Dixon

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THIS WEEK AT LIVING SAVIOUR

Sunday: January 18

- 9:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation & Children's Sunday School
- 9:15 a.m. Chancel Choir
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 11:30 a.m. Monthly Council Meeting
- 5:00 p.m. Room In The Inn

Monday: January 19 - MLK, Jr Day - Office Closed

- 6:15 p.m. Yoga 4 You

Tuesday: January 20

- 9:30 a.m. Yoga 4 You
- 6:45 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 265

Wednesday: January 21

- 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
- 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir

Thursday: January 22

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

Saturday: January 24

- 10:00 a.m. Yoga 4 You

Sunday: January 25

- 9:15 a.m. Chancel Choir
- 9:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation & Children's Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 5:00 p.m. Room In The Inn



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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