

LIVING SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JANUARY 25, 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 - **Steve Vick**

Crucifer - **Cooper Thom**

Acolyte - **Ben Thom**

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 20.

2026 HEALTH AND WHOLENESS

The January theme is Making a New You!

Tip#4: Practice grace and consistency. Stay faithful, not perfect. Some days will be easier than others to maintain a healthy routine and that's ok. If you miss a walk, skip an exercise, or make an unhealthy choice, begin again the next day. Lasting health grows through grace-filled consistency. Trust that God walks with you in every step, strengthening both your resolve and your heart.

3 John 1:2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in good health, even as thy soul prospereth.

WE GATHER IN CHRIST'S NAME

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"This Little Light of Mine"
(Don Huff and Nancy Mersereau)

arr. Mark Hayes

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING DIALOGUE

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✚ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

When our fears and problems overwhelm us and we feel pressed in on every side,
we can declare with confidence:

God is the stronghold of our lives! Of whom shall we be afraid?

No matter the troubles we face, we seek after God that we may live in the house of
God forever.

God shelters and protects us in the day of trouble.

Come, let us worship God with joy, for God is our light and salvation!

We come to worship as bearers of the Light. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Please turn to face the processional cross.

As the cross passes your row, please turn to the altar.

GATHERING HYMN

"Thy Strong Word"

ELW 511: 1,2,6



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy
2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, dark as
3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; bright with
4 From the cross thy wis - dom shin - ing break - eth



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed light we
night and deep as death, broke the light of thy sal -
thine own ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward
forth in con - qu'ring might; from the cross for - ev - er



thank thee, while thine or - dered sea - sons run.
va - tion, breathed thine own life - breath - ing breath.
glo - ry, and our lives our hopes con - fess.
beam - eth all thy bright re - deem - ing light.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise to thee who light dost send!



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

5 Give us lips to sing thy glory,
tongues thy mercy to proclaim,
throats that shout the hope that fills us,
mouths to speak thy holy name.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
May the light which thou dost send
fill our songs with alleluias,
alleluias without end!

6 God the Father, light-creator,
to thee laud and honor be.
To thee, Light of Light begotten,
praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
glory, glory be to thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever
praise the holy Trinity!

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-1976
Music: EBENEZER, Thomas J. Williams, 1869-1944
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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.

Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us.

Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-4

A reading from Isaiah.

- ²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
- ³You have multiplied exultation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
- ⁴For the yoke of their burden
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

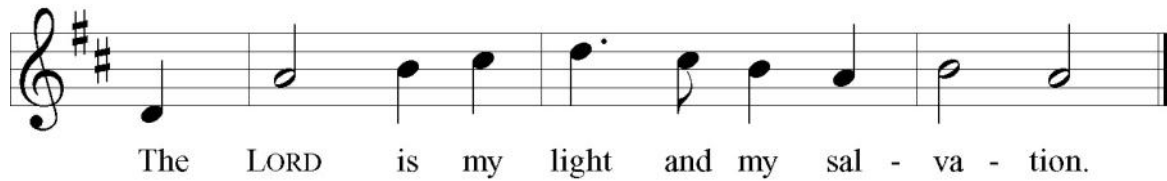
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 27:1, 4-9

Cantor sings refrain. All repeat refrain.

Cantor sings verses. All sing refrain.



- ¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then [|] shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I [|] be afraid?
- ⁴ One thing I ask of the LORD; one [|] thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God [|] in the temple.
- ⁵ For in the day of trouble God will [|] give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high
up- [|] on a rock.
- ⁶ Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies [|] who surround me.
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing;
I will sing and make music [|] to the LORD. **R**
- ⁷ Hear my voice, O LORD, [|] when I call;
have mercy on me and [|] answer me.
- ⁸ My heart speaks your message— [|] "Seek my face."
Your face, O LORD, [|] I will seek.
- ⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- [|] vant
in anger.
Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God
of [|] my salvation. **R**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

A reading from Corinthians.

¹⁰ Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹ For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹² What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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: Matthew 4:12-23

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—
¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.”

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. ¹⁹ And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³ Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

"Light Shone in Darkness"

ELW 307



1 Light shone in dark - ness at the world's cre - a - tion,
2 Light shone in dark - ness at the new cre - a - tion;
3 Light shines in dark - ness till the full cre - a - tion;



bath - ing in beau - ty na-ture's rev - e - la - tion. All that has be - ing,
Christ rose in glo - ry, won for us sal - va - tion. Sing, earth and heav - en,
Christ's bod - y, groan - ing, suf - fers trib - u - la - tion, longs for God's jus - tice,



cry in ad - o - ra - tion, "Praise for the light. A - men!"
hymns of ju - bi - la - tion, praise for the light. A - men!
glob - al trans - for - ma - tion, prays for the light. A - men!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: LUX IN TENEBRIS, Mark Sedio, b. 1954

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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.

Holy One, you entrust the message of the cross and the mission of the gospel to the church in every land. Guide the baptized and deepen the faith of all who follow Christ.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Holy Creator, you lavish creation with splendor, and we praise you for the gift of life. Teach us to live as wise stewards, sharing the earth's resources with all inhabitants of this garden planet.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Holy Judge, your power is love, and you judge the nations by the measure of Christ. Free any who are unjustly accused or wrongly condemned. We pray for those in authority.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Holy Lover, you care for vulnerable young children, frail elders, and any who are sick especially those we name aloud or in silence... We pray for all who are affected by natural disasters. Provide for their needs and relieve their suffering.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Holy Savior, you free us from the power of death. Lead and guide us until we come at last into the communion of all your saints in light.

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

"This Little Light of Mine"

arr. Howard Helvey

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:



The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. The score consists of five lines of music. The first line ends with a double bar line. The second line ends with a double bar line. The third line ends with a double bar line. The fourth line ends with a double bar line. The fifth line ends with a double bar line.

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

We offer our thanks and praise to you, O God,
for at the dawn of creation
you were the light that split open the darkness
and brought all things into being.
You called a people to live in your presence
and walk in your light, revealed to us in you Son, Jesus.

In him, the Christ, you have proclaimed to us
the good news of the nearness of heaven
and called us to repent
and to follow him as disciples.
He was killed but you raised him to life,
and although his cross is derided as foolishness,
to us it is your power at work,
breaking the grip of our oppressors,
teaching us your truth,
healing our sicknesses,
increasing our joy
and revealing to us your love.

The celebrant continues with the Words of Institution.

Holy Spirit, we ask that you come among us.
Bless this meal and bless us,
that being refreshed by this heavenly food,
we may be light for the world,
revealing the love and light 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 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 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 SHARING OF COMMUNION

Musical Offering

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

arr. Anne Krentz Organ

Communion Hymns

Please join the choir in singing the hymns.

"Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult"

ELW 696



1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult of our
 2 As of old Saint An - drew heard it by the
 3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
 4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
 5 Je - sus calls us! By your mer - cy, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his clear voice
 Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and toil and
 vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
 may we hear your call, give our hearts to your o -



sound - ing, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me":
 kin - dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
 keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
 plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
 be - dience, serve and love you best of all.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895

Music: GALILEE, William H. Jude, 1851-1922

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a treble clef and a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The piano accompaniment starts with a bass clef and the same key signature. The lyrics for the first system are: "Take, oh, take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be;". The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line continues with the lyrics: "set your seal up - on my heart and live in me." The piano accompaniment continues with the same key signature and a steady rhythm.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

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

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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, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

**In the sacrament of his body and blood
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,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

WE ARE SENT TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

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.



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



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



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

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

Alston

THIS WEEK AT LIVING SAVIOUR

Sunday: January 25

- 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. Annual Meeting
- 5:00 p.m. Room In The Inn

Monday: January 26

- 6:15 p.m. Yoga 4 You
- 7:00 p.m. Scout Troop 165

Tuesday: January 27

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

Wednesday: January 28

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

Thursday: January 29

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

Friday: January 30

- 5:00 p.m. Pinewood Derby Weigh-in & Registration

Saturday: January 31

- 8:00 a.m. Cub Scout Pack 265 Pinewood Derby
- 10:00 a.m. Yoga 4 You
- 3:00 p.m. John Farris' Funeral

Sunday: February 1

- 9:15 a.m. Chancel Choir
- 9:15 a.m. Adult Faith Formation & Children's Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 2:00 p.m. AED Training Class
- 5:00 p.m. Room In The Inn

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LIVING SAVIOUR

Lutheran Church

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