

# 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  $\pm$  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  
Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## **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.

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup>You have multiplied exultation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup>For 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.



The    LORD    is    my    light    and    my    sal - va - tion.

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

## SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

A reading from Corinthians.

<sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup> 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."

<sup>13</sup> Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup> I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup> so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup> I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. <sup>17</sup> 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.

<sup>18</sup> 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.**

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

<sup>15</sup> "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—  
<sup>16</sup> 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."

<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

<sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

<sup>23</sup> 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

Text © 2001, 2003 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Music © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## **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:



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 your 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; 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 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

"Take, Oh, Take Me as I Am"

ELW 814

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.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

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

Text and music © 1995 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.  
www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

*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.**

## SENDING HYMN

## “Guide My Feet”

ACS 987

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



Credits/Acknowledgements

Intercessory Prayers from Sundays and Seasons by permission under Augsburg Liturgies License SAS103467

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com). Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23663.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

All music and lyrics published in this worship service are printed by permission of the following licenses:

OneLicense #A-725570, LicenSing #612800, CCLI #11242717, Augsburg Fortress #23663.

Gathering Dialog: Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2025.

Great Thanksgiving: Laughingbird liturgical resources and Augsburg Fortress. Adapted.



---

# 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

QR for donating online:



**scan to**  
*join us online*

Scan the QR code with your smartphone's camera, tap the link, and you'll be taken to LSLC's YouTube Channel

