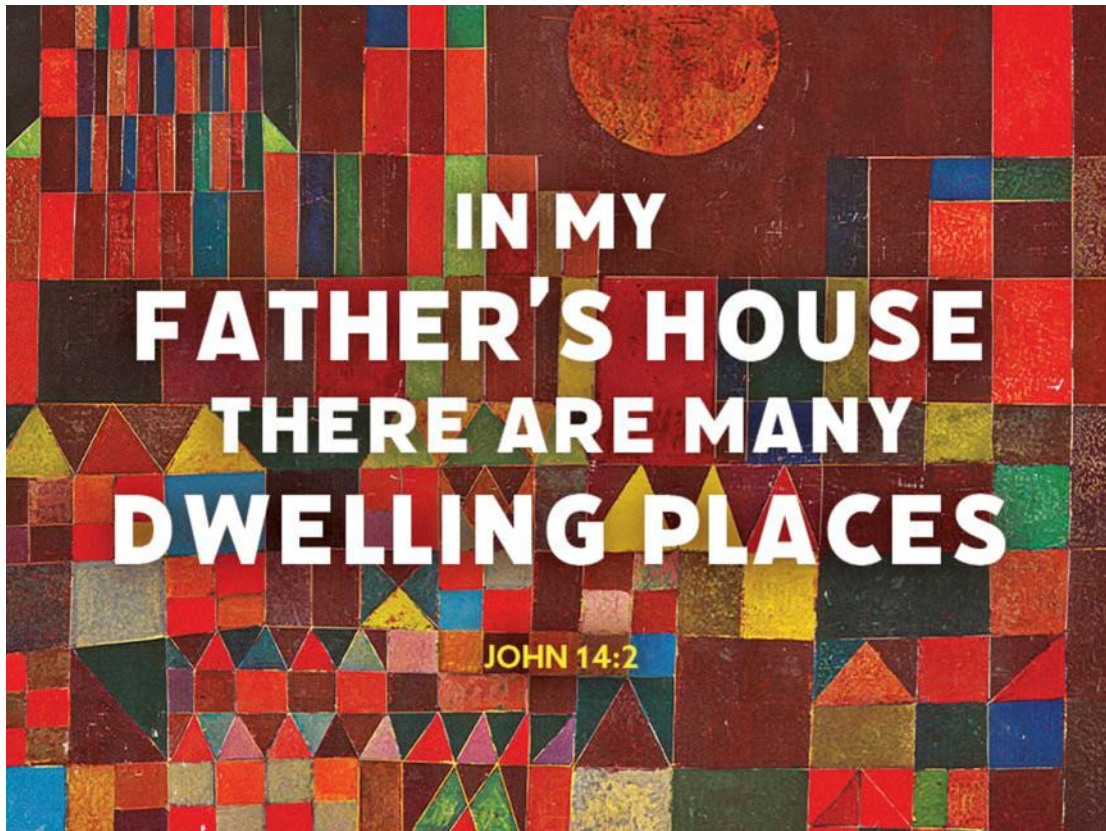


**LIVING SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA**



**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 3, 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!

ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN! Christians throughout the world celebrate Easter every Sunday of the year. Once a week, we gather to announce that Christ is risen. Once a year, however, we devote seven weeks to celebrate the season of Easter. This is the high point of the church year in which we rejoice in the victory Christ has won over sin, death, and the devil. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, we are promised life eternal. This is the good news that we celebrate each Sunday!

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS TODAY:

Assisting Minister - **Kay Zimmerman**

Crucifer - **Riley Skidmore**

Acolyte - **Henry Schwab**

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given by Mike & Laura Michael in thanks for their grandchildren.

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.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES are on page 22.

2026 HEALTH AND WHOLENESS

The May theme is healthy living in your senior years.

Tip #1: Eat a rainbow. Seniors need less calories. Choose nutrient rich foods including a wide range of colorful fruits and vegetables. The healthiest and longest-lived people in the world eat a whole-food and plant-based diet.

Isaiah 46:4 Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.

WE GATHER IN CHRIST'S NAME

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS & INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

PRELUDE "We Sing the Mighty Power of God" arr. Pethel
(Janet Axtman and Pastor Sara, flutes)

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING DIALOGUE

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

Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

People beloved by God, in the midst of our questions and doubts, Jesus answers:
I am the way, the truth, and the life.

In the midst of our worry and distress, Jesus assures us:
I am the way, the truth, and the life.

In the midst of misinformation, confusion, and distrust, Jesus reminds us:
I am the way, the truth, and the life.

In the midst of dead ends and impossible challenges, Jesus shows us:
I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Come, let us worship as we learn to follow Christ, our way, our truth, and our life.
Come, let us worship! Thanks be to God! Amen.

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



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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GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

"This is the Feast"

ELW Setting One

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



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



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.
Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

PSALM: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

Cantor sings Refrain. All repeat refrain. Cantor sings verses. All sing refrain.

Refrain

My times are in your hands. You strength-en me in strife.

My hope is in your Word. Your love pre-serves my life.

- ¹ In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be ¹ put to shame; deliver me ¹ in your righteousness.
- ² Incline your ¹ ear to me; make haste to de- ¹ liver me.
- ³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag ¹ and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead ¹ me and guide me.
- ⁴ Take me out of the net that they have secretly ¹ set for me, for you are my tow- ¹ er of strength. **R**
- ⁵ Into your hands I com- ¹ mend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O LORD, ¹ God of truth.

>>>Cont'd>>>

¹⁵ My times are ^l in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who ^l
persecute me.

¹⁶ Let your face shine up- ^l on your servant;
save me in your ^l steadfast love." **R**

READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

A reading from Peter.

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,
"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner," ⁸ and "A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going." ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸ Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

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

“You Are The Way”

ELW 758



- 1 You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;
- 2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom - can im - part;
- 3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;
- 4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,



all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.
 you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.
 and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.
 that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt.
 Music: DUNDEE, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1615

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the power of Christ’s resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

God of glory, you have built your church on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

>>>Cont’d>>>

God of mercy, you intend governments and social service agencies to be instruments of peace and justice. Guide political leaders and organizations to be agents of compassion, and raise up advocates for those who seek refuge and assistance.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort those who are sick. We pray especially for those we name silently or aloud... Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of community, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of eternal life, you have prepared dwelling places for your people, so that we are never separated from you. We give you thanks for the faithful departed who witnessed to your mighty acts in word and deed.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen 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

O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. Revelation 4:11

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

MUSICAL OFFERING "Round the Earth the Message Runs" Austin Lovelace

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING HYMN "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" ELW 367:4

Adoring praises now we bring
and with the heav'nly blessed sing:
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"
Be to the Father, and our Lord,
to Spirit blest, most holy God,
all the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.

You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more.

Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love.

In the name of Jesus. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

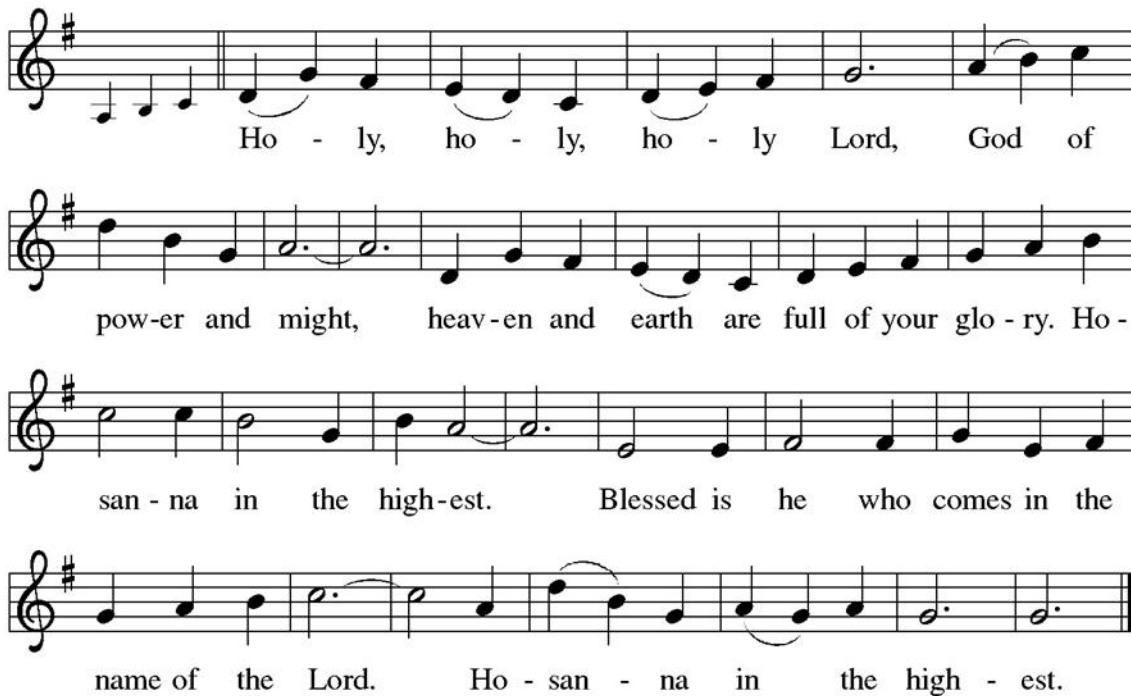
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give 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,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

We praise you for sending your Son, Jesus.
He came among us as the way, the truth and the life,
and in him we have seen you.

The celebrant continues with the Words of Institution.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Blessing, praise, and thanks
to you, holy God,
through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit,
in your church,
without end.

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 "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.


HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The assembly is invited to join in singing the hymns.


"I Received the Living God"

ELW 477

Refrain




I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.



I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.



- 1 Je - sus said: I am the bread, knead - ed long to give you life;
- 2 Je - sus said: I am the way, and my Fa - ther longs for you;
- 3 Je - sus said: I am the truth; come and fol - low close to me.
- 4 Je - sus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,



Refrain

you who will par - take of me need not ev - er fear to die.
so I come to bring you home to be one with us a - new.
You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free.
but re - ceive this liv - ing bread, and my Spir - it you shall know.

Text: Anonymous
Music: LIVING GOD, Anonymous

"O Jesus I Have Promised"

ELW 810

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
 2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
 3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
 4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you

re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
 I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.

I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
 now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.
 oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874, alt.
 Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

The image shows a musical score for two systems. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

System 1:
 Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.
 Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.

System 2:
 Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Psalm 136:1 (Latin); Taizé Community
 Music: CONFITEMINI DOMINO, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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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.

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new.

**Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts
 and to love our enemies, as together we strive
 to bring healing, help and hope to the world.
 In the name of Jesus. Amen.**

WE ARE SENT TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care. As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick and homebound. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing”

ELW 389



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936
 Music: TRURO, T. Williams, *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789
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DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
 Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

“Christ is Arisen”

J.S. Bach

THIS WEEK AT LIVING SAVIOUR

Sunday: May 3

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

Monday: May 4

- 7:00 p.m. Scout Troop 165

Tuesday: May 5

- 6:30 a.m. Coffee for Carmel Chase
- 10:00 a.m. Quilt Ministry
- 6:45 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 265

Wednesday: May 6

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

Saturday: May 9

- 1:00 p.m. Eagle Scout Ceremony

Sunday: May 10

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

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

Psalm: Psalms for All Seasons. Words and Music: AnnaMae Meyer Bush 1982.



LIVING SAVIOUR

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Laura Schwab, Office Administrator
Susan Hall, Treasurer
Elsie Davis, LS Preschool Director

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