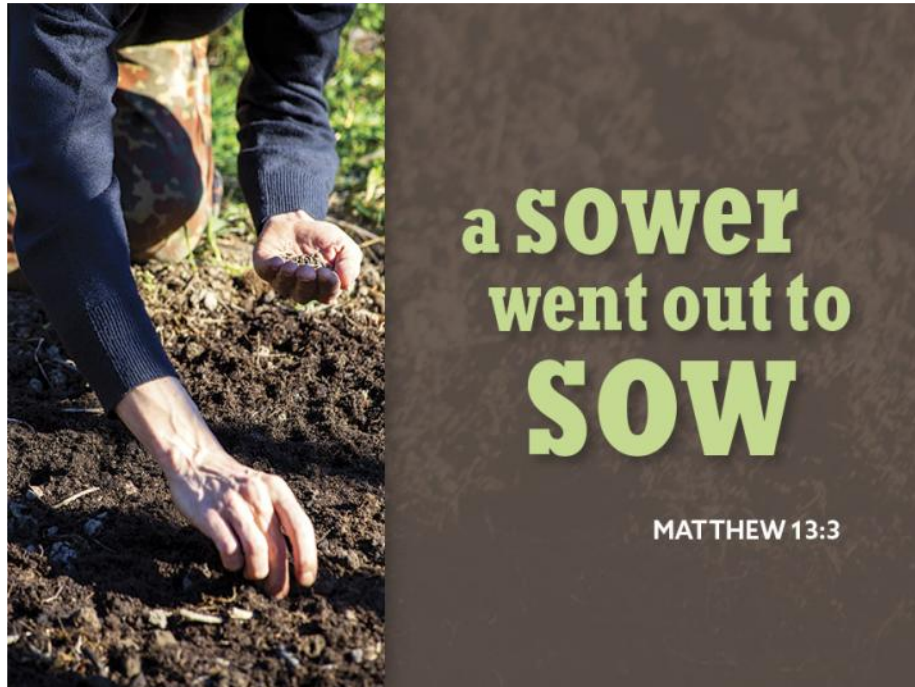


LIVING SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 12, 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!

THE TIME AFTER PENTECOST is the longest stretch of the Christian year during which we do not observe any particular season or celebrate a major festival. Known by many Christians as "ordinary time" or "the time of the Church", this time is neither watchful nor celebrative. During these weeks we concentrate on learning and growing in our faith. The altar and lectern colors are green, representing growth, except for the first Sunday, the festival of the Holy Trinity, when the color is white.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Assisting Minister - **John Williams**

INSTRUMENTALIST:

Trumpet - **Gordon Hann**

Piano - **Sandra Sample**

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.

PRAYER LIST is on page 18. On the second Sunday of each month, we pray for those on our prayer list aloud during our Prayers of Intercession.

OUR JULY NOISY OFFERING will go **Classroom Central**. Classroom Central fosters equity in education by providing teachers and students with the free resources they need to succeed. They distribute free school supplies to thousands of teachers annually in 227 schools across six school districts in the Charlotte area. Teachers are eligible to receive school supplies from Classroom Central if they teach in one of these school districts and in a school where 50% or more of the students receive free or reduced lunch. Classroom Central is able to turn each dollar donated into \$9 worth of school supplies distributed into our community! That's quite a return on your investment.

Learn more on their website: <https://classroomcentral.org/>

WE GATHER IN CHRIST'S NAME

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Guide Me O, Thou Great Jehovah" arr. Buckwalter
(Handbell ensemble: Linda Francis, Cathy Lyall, Cindy Meadows, Steve Vick)
(Sandra Sample, piano)

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
And of the ✝ Son,
And of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God and before one another.

O God who loves us, hear our prayer.
**So often we come to you at a loss –
at a loss for the right words,
the right deeds, the right feelings.
We know all is not right,
but we cannot say with certainty what is wrong.
There are deep divisions between us and others.
There are too many who live in poverty and fear.
There are too many horrific stories,
and not enough hopeful ones.
So we pray to you, our Creator and Redeemer,
to make things right,
and to make us right with you and each other.
Turn us around from that which destroys
toward that which heals and brings joy.**

Friends, let us proclaim the good news:
In ✝ Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Let us live as people made new by God.
Amen.

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

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

"Glory Be to God in Heaven"

Setting Ten



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, who fills the earth be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. **By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

READING: Isaiah 55:10-13

A reading from Isaiah.

- ¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
¹² For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 65: 9-13

Please read responsively.

- ⁹ You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous;
the river of God is full of water.
You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.
- ¹⁰ **You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.**
- ¹¹ You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.
- ¹² **May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing,
and the hills be clothed with joy.**
- ¹³ May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak
themselves with grain;
let them shout for joy and sing.

Please stand as you are able to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!"

¹⁸ "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Sara Ilderton

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil”
(sing twice)

ELW 512

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God’s steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

God our gardener, you scatter grace like seed across the world. Continue to cultivate the garden of your church with your abundant Spirit. Tend to this congregation with your grace throughout this summer season. May those who travel for work or recreation do so safely, and may guests find refreshment and welcome within our faith community.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our joy, your bountiful creation reflects your commitment to life despite our actions disregarding its wonder. We look toward Isaiah's vision, when all creation rejoices, and the trees will clap for joy at your salvation.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our host and table, we pray for children who are hungry and rely on school meals, for all who toil under the hot sun without refreshment, for the chronically ill who have exhausted their resources, for local concerns and for all those we name before you silently or aloud... *(prayer list on page 18)*

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks that the roots of your goodness run deep throughout time. We remember those saints who have gone before us in faith.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus Christ.

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

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts. Psalm 96:8

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

MUSICAL OFFERING

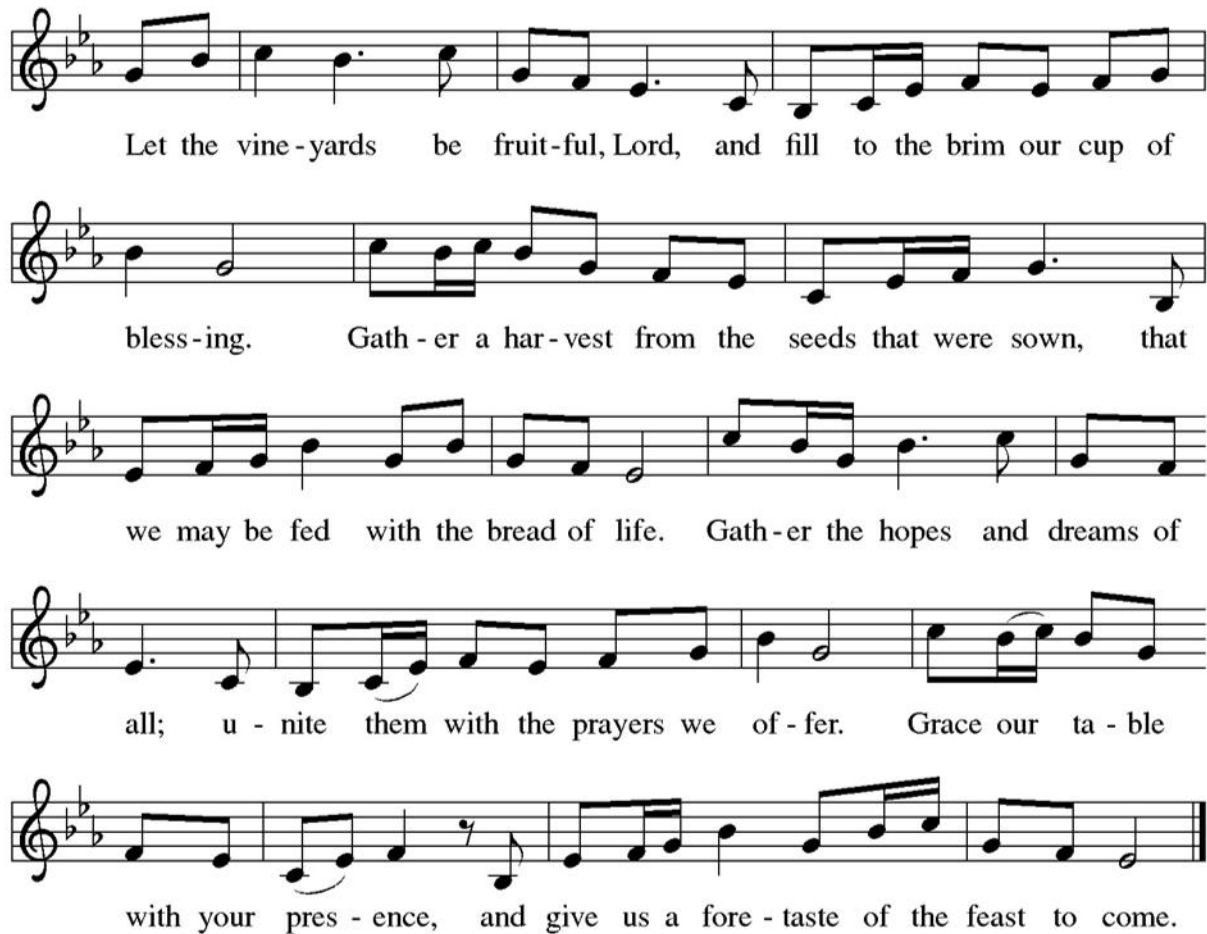
"Shall We Gather at the River" arr. by Greg Howlett
(Sandra Sample, piano)

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING HYMN

"Let the Vineyards"

ELW 184



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God,
for waves of grain and harvesters,
fruitful vines and winepresses,
for our labor and our rest,
for the gifts of your hand in this land.

**Transform us and what we offer
into the banquet of your compassion,
serving your love without limits
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
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,
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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The celebrant continues with the Words of Institution.

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 altar rail. You may kneel or stand.

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.*

HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Please join in singing the hymns which follow.

"Come, Let Us Eat"

ELW 491



1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
3 In Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest,
4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word,



come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
in Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest.
rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word.



Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,
In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom,



our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er.
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er.
in the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er.
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom.

Text: Billema Kwillia, b. 1925, sts. 1-3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930, st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1-3, alt.

Music: A VA DE, Billema Kwillia, adapt.

Text sts. 1-3 and tune © Lutheran World Federation; text st. 4 and music adapt. © 1972 *Contemporary Worship 4*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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

"For the Fruit of All Creation"

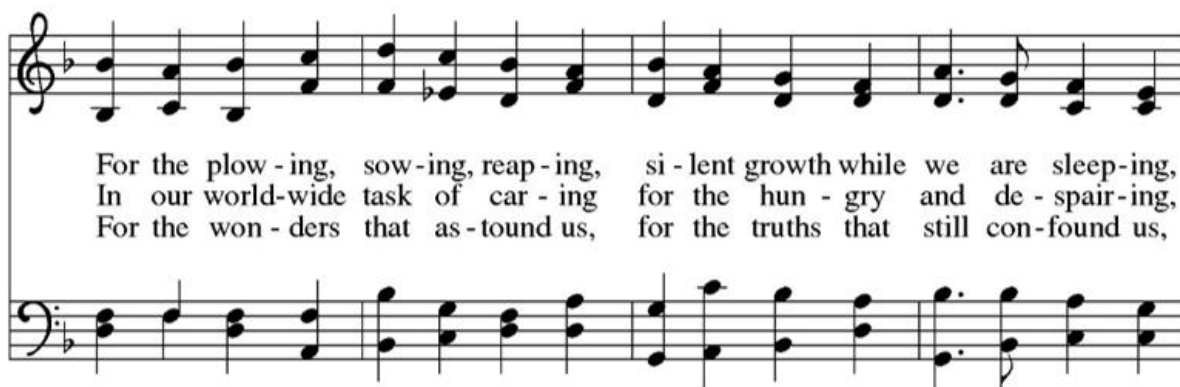
ELW 679



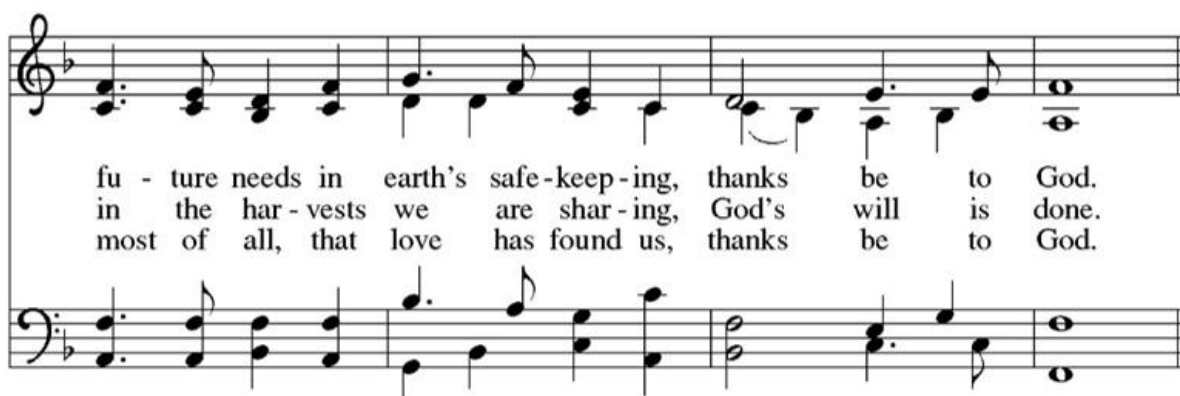
1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "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." The score consists of two systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The piano part features a steady, rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand.

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.

We thank you, God of heaven and earth,
that you fill our deepest need
with the very gift of Jesus Christ,
broken and poured out for us.

**Pour us out into a broken world,
that through our words and actions
we would bring healing, help and hope wherever we go.
Channel our common life toward the common good,
following the way our Savior leads us
now and forever. Amen.**

WE ARE SENT TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"You Shall Go Out with Joy"
(Text quotes reading today: Isaiah 55:12)

W&P 138

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace,

and the moun-tains and the hills will break forth be - fore you.

There'll be shouts of joy and all the trees of the field

will clap, will clap their hands.

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

The trees of the field will clap their hands.

The trees of the field will clap their hands,

while you go out with joy.

DISMISSAL

Go out into the world. Share the good news. Strive for peace and justice.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

"On What Has Now Been Sown"

arr. Jeffrey Blersch

PRAYER LIST

Kippie	Ray K	Jim Crawford
Trudy Terlinde	Terry Godwin	Lois DeLoache
Traci A	Claire & Family	Geraldine
Dawn	Elsie M	Tom Chriske
Judy Frye	Moss	Bob Pilgrim
Jerry	Mary Gonnelli	Sherry W
Barbara	Tim Meadows	Nancy Bryant
Theo	Melanie	Kami & Geoffery
Millie	Nancy Russo	Kathy Sullivan
Dusty	Cynthia K	Donna Hodgins
Amy	Debbie	Kelsey
Melissa Jones	Granddaddy	

***Prayers for the Grieving**

Family of Trudy Haseley	Family of Rufus Gregory
Family of Jill Lamb	Family of John Farris
Family of Pat Hipps	Family of Frank Poley
Family of Sherry Crawford	Family of Joey Skidmore

Prayers for Engaged Couples

Heather Langan & Brian Cone

Prayers for Expectant Parents

Ryan & Cassie Chandler

Prayers for all First Responders, Veterans and for those in Active Military Service

Grayson Jenkins
Marine Cpl. Josh Harbinson
Michael Whetstone & family
Andy Williams
Neil Mitchell
Corey Young

*For Prayers for the Grieving - Church Members and Relatives of Members will remain on the prayer list for one year. Others will remain on the list for one month, unless otherwise requested.

**On the second Sunday of each month, we pray for those on our prayer list aloud during our Prayers of Intercession.

Credits/Acknowledgements

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

From 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.

Prayer of Confession: Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, "Hold Fast to What Is Good."
Used with permission.

<https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession/>. Adapted.

"Let the Vineyards"

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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

"For the Fruit of All Creation"

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

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

"You Shall Go Out with Joy"

Text: Steffi Geiser Rubin

Music: Stuart Dauermann

Text and music © 1975 Lillenas Publishing Co., admin. The Copyright Company

2026 HEALTH AND WHOLENESS

The July theme is building blocks for holistic health.

Tip#2: Physical activity significantly lowers the risk of chronic diseases and improves mental wellbeing. Even just a daily walk can vastly improve sleep, cognitive function and overall quality of life. The American Medical Association recommends 150 minutes/week of moderate physical activity. That is 30 minutes five times a week of walking, biking, swimming, or yoga. If you are a beginner slowly increase your activity. You will feel the benefits!

Philippians 4:13

For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Memory Care Ministry Workshop hosted by Atrium and our Health & Wholeness Ministry will begin **this Wednesday, July 15** and run each Wednesday for six weeks through August 19 from 6-7:30pm and take place in our Fellowship Hall. This **free** workshop will provide education and support for dementia caregivers. All materials and refreshments will be provided. Registration is requested and you can do so on our website or by contacting the church office. **You are not required to attend all sessions**, but encouraged to attend as many as you can. Please share this event with anyone you know that may benefit. Speak with Laura Michael if you have any questions.

Topics will include:

- the caregiving journey
- understanding the brain
- communication changes
- supporting independence
- responding to dementia related behaviors

THIS WEEK AT LIVING SAVIOUR

Sunday: July 12

- 9:15 a.m. Chancel Choir
- 10:15 a.m. Hymn Sing: You Pick `Em, We Sing `Em
- 10:30 a.m. Worship

Monday: July 13

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

Tuesday: July 14

- 9:30 a.m. Yoga 4 You

Wednesday: July 15

- 6:30p.m. Memory Care Ministry Workshop

Thursday: July 16

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

Saturday: July 18

- 10:00 a.m. Yoga 4 You

Sunday: July 19

- 9:30 a.m. Women's Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 a.m. Worship



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, Office Administrator
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

