

LIVING SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



**SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 5, 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 TODAY: The 2026 semiquincentennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence arrives at a fraught time in the nation's history. While we at Living Savior as well as other ELCA churches refrain from commemorating Independence Day as a liturgical occasion outside of intercessory prayer, this milestone anniversary and its broader national context present a unique situation. In witness to the church's ardent stand against Christian nationalism in its various and insidious forms, and in response to implementing a resolution adopted in 2025 at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the ELCA Churchwide Organization and Augsburg Fortress in conjunction with a worship planning development team has developed this liturgy for this specific occasion that both celebrate and lament this nation's history, affirm the reality of the current moment, and seek to unite the Diverse body of Christ for the life of the world.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Assisting Minister - **Donna Thomas**

Crucifer - **Riley Skidmore**

Acolyte - **Cole Plunkett**

INSTRUMENTALIST:

Trumpet - **Gordon Hann**

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given by Linda Poley to the glory of God and in celebration of our nation's 250th Independence Day.

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 26.

WE GATHER IN CHRIST'S NAME

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "How Firm a Foundation" arr. Hayes and Gaspard
(Nancy Mersereau, piano and Don Huff, organ)

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
source of hope for all people,
rest for the weary,
glory and peace to the ends of the earth.

Amen.

Let us bring every burden to God.

God of all mercy,
**we have sinned against you,
our neighbors, and your creation.
Within ourselves and our communities,
our desire to do what is good
is at war with the evil that dwells in us.
We lament the evil that holds us captive.
We repent of the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us
for lives of compassion and courage
through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

All-merciful, Almighty God
forgive you all your sins
through the grace of † Jesus Christ,
and by the Spirit's power
strengthen you in doing what is good.
Amen.

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



1 Be - fore you, Lord, we bow, our God who reigns a - bove and
 2 May ev - 'ry moun - tain height, each vale and for - est green, shine
 3 Earth, hear your mak - er's voice; your great re - deem - er own; be -
 4 And when in pow'r he comes, oh, may then ev - 'ry land from



rules the world be - low with bound - less pow'r and love. Our thanks we
 forth in wis - dom's light, and its rich fruits be seen! May ev - 'ry
 lieve, o - bey, re - joice, and wor - ship God a - lone. Cast down your
 all its rend - ing tombs send forth a glo - rious band, a count - less



bring in joy and praise, our hearts we raise, to you we sing!
 tongue be tuned to praise and join to raise a grate - ful song.
 pride, your sin de - plore, and bow be - fore the Cru - ci - fied.
 throng, with joy to sing to heav'n's high king sal - va - tion's song!

Text: Francis Scott Key, 1779–1843, alt.

Music: DARWALL'S 148TH, John Darwall, 1731–1789

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.

O God, you are the source of life and the ground of our being.

By the power of your Spirit bring healing to this wounded world and raise us to the new life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

PSALM: Psalm 145:8-14

Please read responsively.

⁸ The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹ **LORD, you are good to all,
and your compassion is over all your works.**

¹⁰ All your works shall praise you, O LORD,
and your faithful ones shall bless you.

¹¹ **They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power,**

¹² that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³ **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures
throughout all ages.
You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

¹⁴ The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

READING: Romans 7:15-25a

A reading from Romans.

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a} Thanks be to God through 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

"Hallelujah" (*Heleluyan*)

ELW 171

Cantor sings first. Assembly repeats twice.



1* 2 3

He - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan; he - le, he - le - lu - yan.
Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah; hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.

He - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan; he - le, he - le - lu - yan.
Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah; hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.

* *May be sung in canon.*

Music: Muscogee (Creek) Indian; transc. Charles H. Webb, b. 1933

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GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶ "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

¹⁸ "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon';

¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

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 "Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty" ELW 777
V1,2,4,6 - All V3 - Lower Voices V5 - Higher Voices



- 1 "Come to me, all pil-grims thirst - y; drink the wa - ter I will give.
- 2 "Come to me, all trav-'lers wea - ry; come that I may give you rest.
- 3 "Come to me, be - liev - ers bur - dened; find re - fresh - ment in this place.
- 4 "Come to me, re - pen - tant sin - ners; leave be - hind your guilt and shame.



If you knew what gift I of - fer, you would come to me and live."
Drink the cup of life I of - fer; at this ta - ble be my guest."
Come, re - ceive the gift I of - fer, turn to me and seek my face."
Come and know di - vine com - pas - sion, turn to me, I call your name."

Refrain following verses 1 and 6 only



Je - sus, ev - er - flow - ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.



In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 5 "Come to me, distressed and needy;
I would be your trusted friend.
Come and seek the gift I offer,
come, your open hands extend." <i>Refrain</i> | 6 "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned;
lonely ways no longer roam.
Come and take the gift I offer,
let me make in you my home." <i>Refrain</i> |
|---|--|

Text: Delores Dufner, osb, b. 1939
Music: BEACH SPRING, The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844
Text © 1992, 1996 Sisters of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please sit or kneel as you are able.

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

Gathering God, send your Spirit on the church you have called out from every nation. Knit us together into one body and heal the divisions we have caused. Overcome our timidity to speak and act when the truth of your love is being thwarted. Bless rostered and lay leaders with clarity and courage as they center your people in the gospel. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

All your works praise you, O God. From the Arctic to the Caribbean, from the Atlantic to the western islands, these lands and waters have sustained your people over many centuries. As we take our part in creation's praise, enliven our will to ensure its health for future generations. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Holy Trinity, you show us the splendor of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. We come from many nations with many languages; make us a united people that delights in our many different gifts. As this nation marks its declaration of independence, give those whom we have entrusted with authority the spirit of wisdom, and curb every abuse of that trust, so that both here and abroad, justice, humility, and peace may flourish. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You are the mother of exiles, O God. Extend your arms to all who are tired, who live with poverty, the tempest-tossed, all who yearn to breathe free. Embrace people seeking refuge; those incarcerated, detained. Give healing and hope to people in any oppression and need, especially those we name silently or aloud... God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We remember before you those who have died in every generation, especially those who have died ensuring the freedoms of this country: people in the armed services, peace officers, advocates, and activists. Gather us, together with those who have gone before us, and with saints of every tribe and nation, into the holy city you have prepared. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your mercy, O God, we entrust our restless hearts and all our cares, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

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 honour 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

"Prayer for Peace"

David Cherwien

*O God of love, O King of peace, make wars throughout the world to cease;
The wrath of nations now restrain. Give peace, O God, give peace again.*

*Remember, Lord, thy works of old, the wonders that thy people told;
Remember not our sin's dark stain. Give peace, O God, Give peace again!*

*Whom shall we trust but thee, O Lord? Where rest but on thy faithful word?
None ever called on thee in vain. Give peace, O God, give peace again!*

Please stand as you are able.

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.**

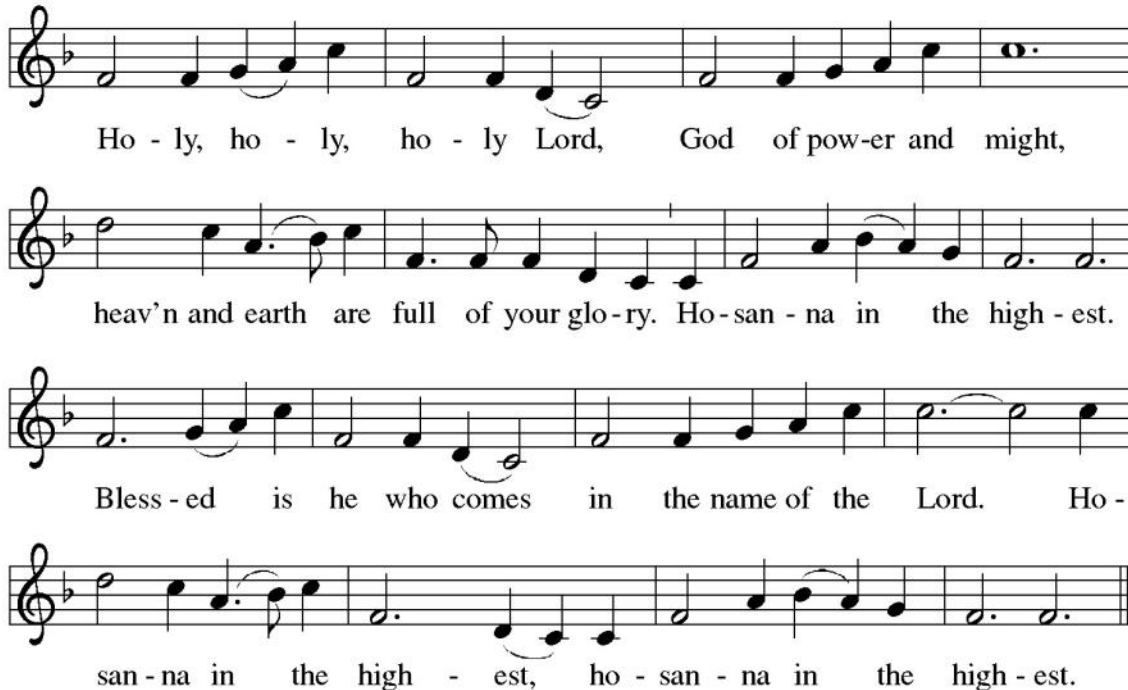
GREAT THANKSGIVING

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;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
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:



The musical score consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

Holy God,
you alone are Majesty,
you alone are Excellency,
you alone are Sovereign.
Within the vast reaches you splashed into being,
you formed this planet: purple mountains, fruited plains,
crystal waters, towering forests, gleaming mines.

Here you fashioned human beings in our infinite variety and hue,
yet each one created equal, to care for one another
and our earthly home.
In a time of peace enforced by the cruelty of empire,
you came in Jesus to share our life.
Born under the rule of a merciless king,
Jesus revealed the merciful realm of God.
Moving across borders to people broken and oppressed,
Jesus brought healing, help and hope to all.

The celebrant continues with the Words of Institution.

Remembering, therefore,
Christ's execution at the hands of a ruthless regime,
Christ's resurrection that buries death,
Christ's ascension to rule with love forever,
we declare the revolutionary mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

God, shed your grace on us.
Shower your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine
and on your people gathered this day.
Ignite in us the flame of freedom—
freedom from prejudice, from supremacy, from fear;
freedom for acceptance, for welcome,
for the *shalom* that you have first shown to us.

Yours, O God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
is the everlasting kingdom,
the peaceable power,
and the humble glory,
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 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.*

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

"Come Unto Him" from MESSIAH

G.F. Handel
arr. Nancy Mersereau

(Riley Skidmore and Cathy Lyall)

Please join in singing the hymns which follow.

All of these hymns are considered African American Spirituals or hymns.

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

LBW 212

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain

Text: African American spiritual
Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com - mu - nion find;
3 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;

but one com - mu - ni - ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser - vice is the gold - en cord close bind - ing hu - man - kind.
All chil - dren of the liv - ing God are sure - ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

The musical score consists of two systems. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment line on a bass clef staff. The first system contains the first four lines of the lyrics. The second system contains the remaining four lines of the lyrics. The music is written in a key with one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines that support the vocal melody.

Text: John Oxenham, 1852–1941, alt.
Music: MCKEE, African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866–1949

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 gift of Jesus Christ,
broken and poured out for us.

**As we carry that gift with us,
channel our common life
toward the common good,
and following the way of Jesus,
use us to bring healing, help and hope to the world.
now and forever. Amen.**

WE ARE SENT TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor † and give you peace.

Amen.

Trumpets
before each stanza

1 God of the a - ges, whose al - might - y
2 Your love di - vine has led us in the
3 From war's a - larms, from dead - ly pes - ti -
4 Re - fresh your peo - ple on their toil - some

hand leads forth in beau - ty all the star - ry
past, in this free land by you our lot is
lence, be your strong arm our ev - er sure de -
way, lead us from night to nev - er - end - ing

band of shin - ing worlds in splen - dor through the
cast; be now our rul - er, guard - ian, guide, and
fense; your true re - li - gion in our hearts in -
day; fill all our lives with heaven-born love and

skies, our grate - ful songs be - fore your throne a - rise.
stay, your Word our law, your paths our cho - sen way.
crease, your boun-teous good - ness nour - ish us in peace.
grace, and songs of praise we'll lift be - fore your face!

WORDS: Daniel C. Roberts (1841-1907), alt.
MUSIC: George W. Warren (1828-1902)

NATIONAL HYMN
10.10.10.10.

DISMISSAL

Go out into the world. Stive for peace and justice.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

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"Prayer for Peace"

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821-77, alt.

ABOUT TODAY'S HYMNS

PRELUDE

"How Firm a Foundation"

This early American tune was composed by Joseph Funk (1778-1862), who was born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, later moving with his family to Harrisonburg, Virginia. In addition to farming, he taught and composed music, and compiled tune books one of which was entitled "A Compilation of Genuine Church Music" which was later retitled "Harmonia Sacra".

GATHERING HYMN

"Before You, Lord, We Bow"

Text composed by Francis Scott Key (1779-1843) who, as you likely know, also wrote "The Star Spangled Banner". Born in Maryland, he graduated from St. John's College, Annapolis and began to practice law eventually becoming district attorney for the District of Columbia.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Hallelujah" (Heleluyan)

The music is from the Muscogee (Creek) Native American tribe. Originally located in Southeastern United States, they were forcibly removed by the Federal Government during the Trail of Tears to what was referred to as Indian Territory in Oklahoma.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty"

The text is by Delores Dufner, a nun of the Order of St. Benedict. She is a composer of sacred music, a librettist, and organist whose texts are included in many hymnals (the ELW contains nine of her hymn texts). In 2017 she received the Christus Rex award from Valparaiso University (Lutheran).

The tune (BEACH SPRING is attributed to Benjamin Franklin White (1800-1879), a self-taught singing school teacher from South Carolina. He and Elisha J. King published "The Sacred Harp" hymnal (Philadelphia, 1844).

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Prayer for Peace"

David Cherwien, composer of "Prayer for Peace" is artistic director of the National Lutheran Choir, and a nationally known conductor, composer, and organist. Recognized for his contributions to the field of church music and liturgy, he is in demand as a clinician and hymn festival leader across the country. He is known for his ability to play and entire worship service using little or no music. He is also known for his ability to improvise. (Nancy and I witnessed this first-hand at a music workshop when a participant's phone with a bell tower ring went off during a music reading session. David went to the organ and immediately began playing an improvisation on the bell tower ring!)

Henry W. Baker was an English Anglican priest and hymnwriter, among them the text for used for "Prayer for Peace" and also "The King of Love My Shepherd Is".

HOLY

Tune: "Land of Rest"

Land of Rest (name of the tune) first appeared in Samuel Wakefields' shape-note tune book called THE CHRISTIAN HARP (Pittsburg, 1832).

COMMUNION HYMNS

“Come Unto Him”

Handel wrote the beloved oratorio, MESSIAH in 1741, which predates the signing of the Declaration of Independence by 35 years, plus Handel was German! It is used today due to its relevance to today’s gospel text.

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

As is the case with so many African American hymns, “Let Us Break Bread Together” may have partly been a signal associated with gathering and protest. It is also related to holy communion in liturgical churches which slaves attended. An interesting note that Carl Daw says that “seeing the rising sun while kneeling probably relates to Anglican churches especially in Virginia which had clear glass window over the altar.”

“In Christ There Is No East or West”

The theme of these African American spiritual calls for a breakdown of ethnic and other barriers. Henry T. Burleigh (1866-1949) adapted the tune McKee which first appeared in THE HYMNAL 1940 (Episcopal) and from there has been adopted widely.

SENDING HYMN

“God of the Ages”

“God of the Ages” (originally “God of Our Fathers”) was written by Daniel Crane Roberts in 1876. Written for the American Centennial, it was later paired with the tune National Hymn written by George William Warren.

Patriotic Hymns Sing-A-Long

"My Country, 'Tis of Thee"



1 My coun - try, 'tis of thee, sweet land of lib - er - ty,
2 My na - tive coun - try, thee, land of the no - ble free,
3 Let mu - sic swell the breeze, and ring from all the trees
4 Our fa - thers' God, to thee, au - thor of lib - er - ty,



of thee I sing: land where my fa - thers died, land of the
thy name I love; I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and
sweet free - dom's song; let mor - tal tongues a - wake; let all that
to thee we sing: long may our land be bright with free - dom's



pil - grims' pride, from ev - 'ry moun - tain - side let free - dom ring.
tem - pled hills; my heart with rap - ture thrills like that a - bove.
breathe par - take; let rocks their si - lence break, the sound pro - long.
ho - ly light. Pro - tect us by thy might, great God, our king.

Text: Samuel F. Smith, 1808–1895

Music: NATIONAL ANTHEM, *Thesaurus Musicus*, London, 1744

“Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory”

- 1 Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
he has loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword:
his truth is marching on.

Refrain

Glory, glory! Hallelujah!
Glory, glory! Hallelujah!
Glory, glory! Hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.

- 3 In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
with a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me.
As he died to make men holy, let us live to make men free,
while God is marching on. *Refrain*

Text: Julia Ward Howe, 1819-1910

“O Beautiful for Spacious Skies”

- 1 O beautiful for spacious skies,
for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesties
above the fruited plain:
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood
from sea to shining sea.

- 2 O beautiful for heroes proved
in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved,
and mercy more than life:
America! America!
May God thy gold refine,
till all success be nobleness,
and ev'ry gain divine.

- 3 O beautiful for patriot dream
that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam,
undimmed by human tears:
America! America!
God mend thine ev'ry flaw,
confirm thy soul in self-control,
thy liberty in law.


Text: Katherine L. Bates, 1859-1929

"God Bless America"

God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with a light from above
From the mountains to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home
God bless America, my home sweet home

Text: Irving Berlin, 1888-1989

"This Is My Song"



1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
3 This is my prayer, O God of all earth's king - doms,



a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.
your king - dom come; on earth your will be done.

>>>Continued>>>

"This Is My Song" continued

This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
 But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
 O God, be lift - ed up till all shall serve you,

here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
 and skies are ev - 'ry - where as blue as mine.
 and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.

but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
 So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,
 So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions;

with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
 a song of peace for their land and for mine.
 my - self I give you; let your will be done.

Text: Lloyd Stone, 1912–1993, sts. 1–2; Georgia Harkness, 1891–1974, st. 3
 Music: FINLANDIA, Jean Sibelius, 1865–1957
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2026 HEALTH AND WHOLENESS

The July theme is the building blocks for holistic health.

Tip#1: Holistic health considers the whole person and emphasizes the interaction of body, mind, and spirit. Optimum health results when these three areas are maintained in balance. Health is more than just not being sick. Holistic health is a lifestyle. It focuses on higher levels of wellness by maintaining restorative sleep, stress management, avoidance of risky substances, and positive social interactions as well as healthy diet and exercise.

3 John 1:2

Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you, and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Memory Care Ministry Workshop hosted by Atrium will begin 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 5

- 9:15 a.m. Chancel Choir
- 10:15 a.m. Patriotic Songs Sing-a-Long
- 10:30 a.m. Worship

Monday: July 6

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

Tuesday: July 7

- 6:30 a.m. Coffee for Carmel Chase
- 9:30 a.m. Yoga 4 You

Thursday: July 9

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

Saturday: July 11

- 10:00 a.m. Yoga 4 You

Sunday: July 12

- 9:15 a.m. Chancel Choir
- 10:30 a.m. Worship



LIVING SAVIOUR

Lutheran Church

Living Saviour Lutheran Church
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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

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