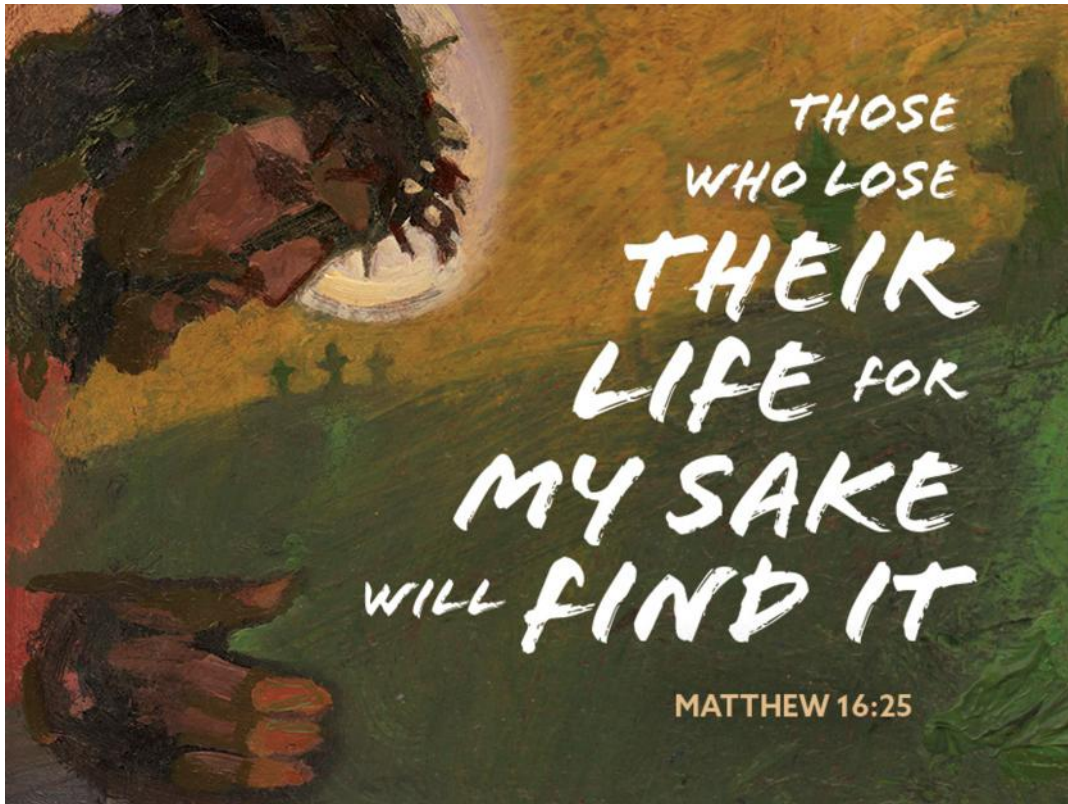


LIVING SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 30, 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 - **Marty Jenkins**

Crucifer - **Jackson Thom**

Acolyte - **Charlie Parham**

INSTRUMENTALISTS:

Trumpet - **Gordon Hann**

Woodwinds - **Barbara Tobin**

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given by Sue Hunsinger to the glory of God and in honor of all children.

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.

WE GATHER IN CHRIST'S NAME

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"The Light in Me"
(Riley Skidmore and Pastor Sara Ilderton)

LeDoux

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING DIALOGUE

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

Amen.

Called to be followers of Jesus,
we come to share our lives together:
**to share our sorrows and celebrate the joys of our hearts,
and to welcome all, as we gather as faith community.**

Led by the Holy Spirit,
we will seek peace and hope:
**offering food and drink to our enemies,
and seeking to live peaceably with all,
shunning what is evil and grasping what is good.**

Gathered as God's people,
we come to worship together:
**singing praises to the God who loves us,
and opening our hearts to hear and answer God's call.
Glory be to God!**

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

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

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.

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. **Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please be seated.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21

A reading from Jeremiah.

¹⁵ O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.
In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.

¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹ Therefore thus says the LORD:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

²⁰ And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
says the LORD.

²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21

A reading from Romans.

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Celtic Alleluia"

ELW 174



GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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 Jesus, You Shall Be My Song"

ELW 808

Stanza 1-All St. 2-Higher Voices St. 3-Lower Voices St. 4-All



1 *Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te;*
1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;
2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,
4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;



Jé - sus, je vou - drais t'an-non-cer à mes voi - sins par - tout,
I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:
May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.
to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.
but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.



car toi seul es la vie et la paix et l'a - mour:
you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.
And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,



Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te.
Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.
Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

For the church in every land, that its mission and ministry is anchored in the love of Christ. When threats or challenges arise, teach us to take up our cross and follow you in faith.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the well-being of your creation, that all that lives and grows on the earth may thrive. Bring relief to areas ravaged by droughts, floods, fires, storms, and other disasters.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the nations and all in authority, that they seek to live in peace with one another. Bless the work of international and diplomatic organizations and all who work to bring peace to a world scarred by violence.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For all those in need, that they be satisfied. Ensure all your children have safe access to food, water, shelter, and medical care. Bring healing to all who bear wounds in body, mind, and spirit especially those we name silently or aloud...

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the faithful departed, that their witness continues to strengthen and guide the church. Renew our hope in your promises in this life and the life to come.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have,
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. *Hebrews 13:15, 16*

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

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Spirit Open My Heart"
(Janet Axtman, flute)

Alfred Fedak

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
**Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
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:

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

heav-en 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.

Text: "Sanctus," tr. English Language Liturgical Consultation
Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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

In your great love for all, you sent your Son, Jesus,
to deliver us from the power of evil.
He suffered at the hands of the authorities in Jerusalem,
and was killed, but you overcame evil with good
and raised him to new life on the third day.

And now you have called us to follow him
in humble service to all.

The celebrant continues with the Words of Institution.

We pray that you send your Holy Spirit on us
and on these, your gifts of bread and wine.
Grace this table with your presence
and reveal yourself to us
in the breaking of the bread.

All praise and glory are yours, blessed and holy Trinity 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.**

ACCLAMATION AT THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The bread is raised and broken.

Alleluia! Remembering that Christ our Passover has been given for us,
let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

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.

"This is Christ's Body"

ACS 967

This is Christ's bod - y, bro - ken and blest. Feed us with

The first system of musical notation for the hymn. It consists of a treble and bass staff in B-flat major (two flats). The melody is in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the notes.

mer-cy and love. We are Christ's bod - y,
with mer - cy and love.

The second system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are written below the notes.

bro - ken and blest. Heal us and make us one.

The third system of musical notation, concluding the hymn. It features a final cadence in the treble staff and a sustained chord in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the notes.

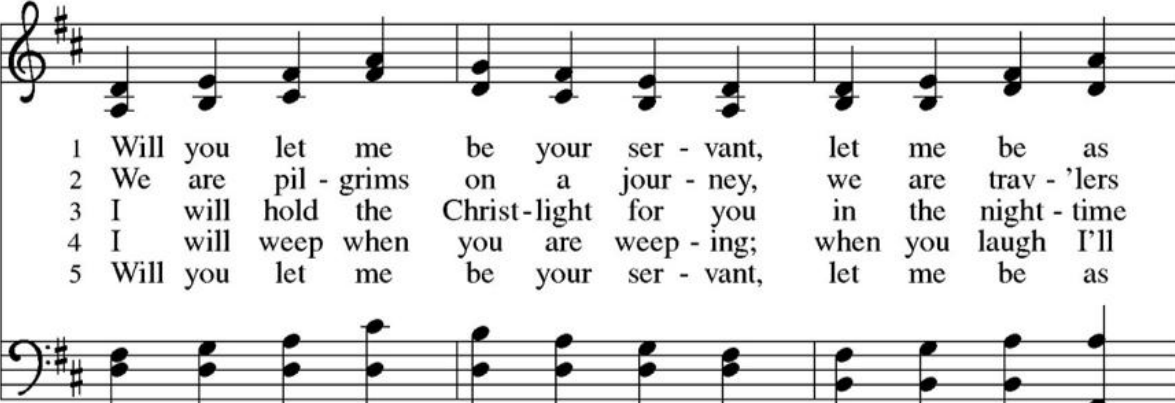
Text: Anne Krentz Organ, b. 1960
Music: BROKEN AND BLESSED, Anne Krentz Organ
Text and music © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

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"Will You Let Me Be Your Servant"

ELW 659

*Stanza 1,2-All St. 3-played by instruments; assembly silently reads words
St. 4,5-All*



1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers
3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night - time
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll
5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as



Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to



let you be my ser - vant, too.
walk the mile and bear the load.
speak the peace you long to hear.
till we've seen this jour - ney through.
let you be my ser - vant, too.

Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953

Music: THE SERVANT SONG, Richard Gillard; arr. Betty Pulkingham, b. 1928

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"Bind Us Together"

WOV 748

Refrain
F

Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that

Dm Gm

C⁷ F F

can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord,

Dm Gm C F

bind us to - geth - er, Lord; bind us to - geth - er in love.

F C⁷ F F C⁷ F

1 There . . is on - ly one God. There . . is on - ly one King.
2 You are the fam-'ly of God. You are the prom-ise di - vine.

F C⁷ F C⁷ F *Refrain* B^b/C

There . . is on - ly one Bod-y; that . . is why we can sing:
You are God's cho-sen de - sire, you are the glo-rious new wine.

Text: Bob Gillman, b. 1946
Music: Bob Gillman, b. 1946
© 1977 Thankyou Music, admin. (in Western Hemisphere) Integrity's Hosanna! Music

BIND US TOGETHER
6 7 7 6 and refrain

The image displays a musical score for the hymn "Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am". It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. 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 music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for church use.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

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

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Please stand as you are able.

COMMUNION BLESSING

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood,
strengthen, keep and unite us now and forever.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
**Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, bringing healing, help,
and hope to the world.**
**We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.**
Amen.

WE ARE SENT TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

BLESSING

Go from this place with joy,
giving thanks to God,
proclaiming God's goodness,
celebrating God's love,
and worshipping God with your lives,
for God is faithful to a thousand generations.
And may the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you and among you
and remain with you always.
Amen.



1 Rise, O church, like Christ a - ris - en,
 2 Rise, trans - formed, and choose to fol - low
 3 Rise, re - mem - ber well the fu - ture
 4 Ser - vice be our sure vo - ca - tion;



from this meal of love and grace;
 af - ter Christ, though wound - ed, whole;
 God has called us to re - ceive;
 cour - age be our dai - ly breath;



may we through such love en - vi - sion
 bro - ken, shared, our lives are hal - lowed
 pres - ent by God's lov - ing nur - ture,
 mer - cy be our des - ti - na - tion



whose we are, and whose, our praise.
 to re - lease, and to con - sole.
 Spir - it - ed and then let us live.
 from this day and un - to death.



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



God, the won - der of our days.
 Christ, our pres - ent, past, and goal.
 Spir - it, grace by whom we live.
 Rise, O church, a liv - ing faith.

DISMISSAL

Go out into the world. Share the good news. Strive for peace and justice.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

"Voices Raised to You We Offer"

Weber

2026 HEALTH AND WHOLENESS

The August theme is centering for contemplative prayer.

Tip #5 Centering Prayer is not about achieving a special experience or reaching a particular state of mind. It is simply consenting to God's presence and action within us. Some days may feel peaceful and prayerful, while others may seem distracted or dry. Yet every time we sit in silence, we are practicing trust and opening ourselves to God's transforming love.

Thomas Keating often reminded practitioners that success in Centering Prayer is not measured by how we feel during prayer but by the growing capacity to live with greater patience, compassion, humility, and love. As we return again and again to silence, we learn to surrender control and rest in God's faithfulness. The practice teaches us that God is always present, gently calling us into deeper relationship and wholeness.

This simple act of sitting with God gradually shapes our hearts, helping us carry a spirit of peace and attentiveness into our relationships, our work, and our daily lives.

Psalm 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God.

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“Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am”

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

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

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“Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen”

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Music: SURGE ECCLESIA, Timothy J. Strand, b. 1958

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“Lift High the Cross”

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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THIS WEEK AT LIVING SAVIOUR

Sunday: August 30

- 9:15 Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 11:30 a.m. Crucifer/Acolyte Training
- 11:30 a.m. Fifth Sunday Potluck

Monday: August 31

- 9:00 a.m. Preschool Classroom Prep
- 6:15 p.m. Yoga 4 You
- 7:00 p.m. Scout Troop 165

Tuesday: September 1

- 9:30 a.m. Yoga 4 You
- 10:00 a.m. Quilt Ministry
- 6:45 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 265

Wednesday: September 2

- 10:00 a.m. Book Club

Thursday: September 3

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

Saturday: September 5

- 10:00 a.m. Yoga 4 You

Sunday: September 6

- 9:15 Choir Rehearsal
- 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, Music Ministry
Nancy Mersereau, Assistant Musician
Laura Schwab, Office Administrator
Amanda Thom, Director, Children, Youth & Families
Susan Hall, Treasurer
Elsie Davis, LS Preschool Director

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join us online

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