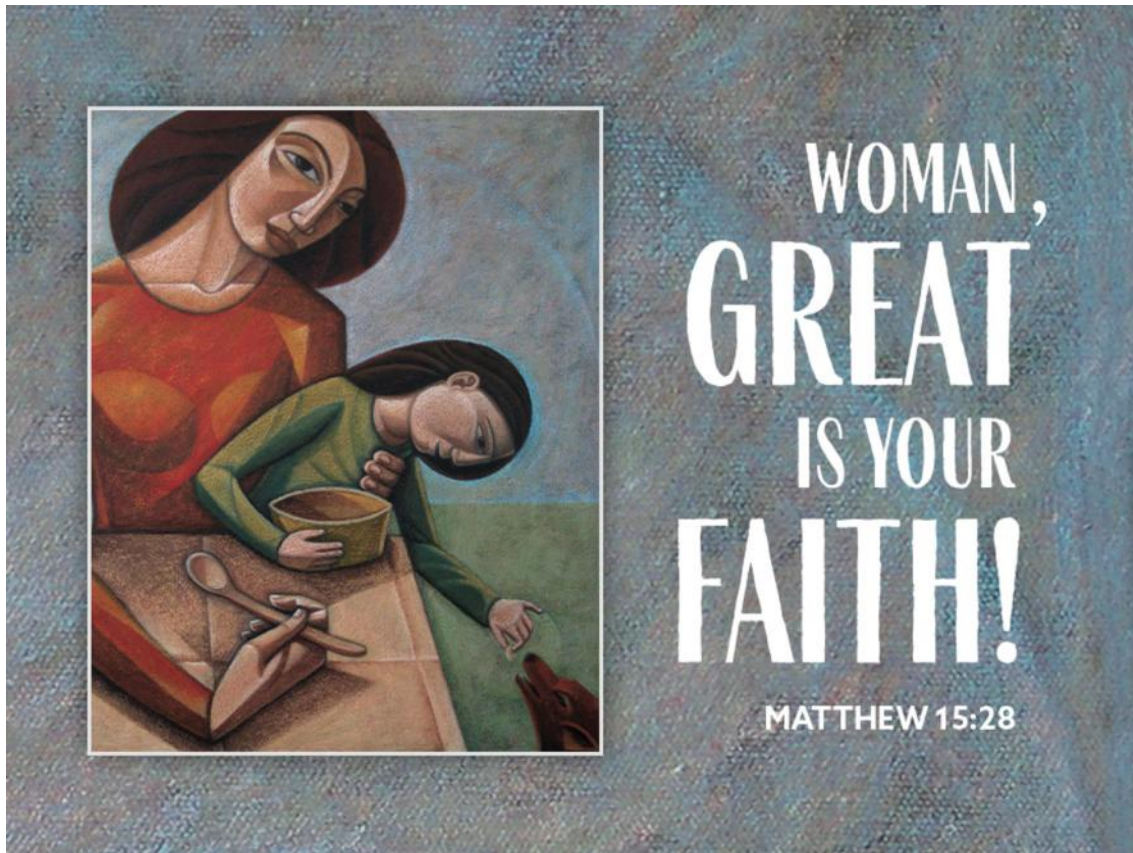


LIVING SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 16, 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 - **Dan Haseley**

Crucifer - **Rhys Plunkett**

Acolyte - **Cole Plunkett**

INSTRUMENTALISTS:

Trumpet - **Gordon Hann**

Woodwinds - **Barbara Tobin**

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given by Tom Chriske, in remembrance of his and Ann’s wedding anniversary.

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.

NOISY OFFERING for August will go to **Niner United**. Niner United is a Christian campus ministry at UNC Charlotte trying to be real. We are open to everybody. No litmus test. No pretending. We’re rooted in historic church traditions (Episcopal, Lutheran, Presbyterian, and United Methodist), but we’re not stuck in the past. We believe in grace. We believe in Jesus. We believe in showing up.

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

WE GATHER IN CHRIST'S NAME

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Lord, Whose Love In Humble Service"
(Barbara Tobin, instrumentalist)

Anne K. Organ

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Compassionate God,
we confess to you all our sins.
Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.
In your mercy, call us back to you.
Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.
Restore us to dwell in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray,
Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."
In the name of God,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God's love.
Amen.

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



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
 2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
 3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light
 4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:
 still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
 in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,
 to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;
 As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
 mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,
 hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con-se-crat-ing to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.
 by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.
 stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.
 that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

Text © Oxford University Press

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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.

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you.
Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

READING: Isaiah 56:1-2, 7

A reading from Isaiah.

¹ Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

² Happy is the mortal who does this,
the one who holds it fast,
who keeps the Sabbath, not profaning it,
and refrains from doing any evil...

⁷ ...these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 67

Please read responsively.

- ¹ May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.
- ² **Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.**
- ³ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
- ⁴ **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations
on earth.**
- ⁵ Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
- ⁶ **The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us.**
- ⁷ May God give us blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

Please stand as you are able to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Celtic Alleluia"

ELW 174



Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

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GOSPEL: Matthew 15:10-28

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁰ [Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:¹¹ it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." ¹² Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³ He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴ Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵ But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶ Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷ Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸ But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰ These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." ²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶ He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷ She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE/NOISY OFFERING

SERMON

Sara Ilderton

Please stand as you are able.

Refrain



Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,



give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.



1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your

Refrain



peace and glad-ness; Spir-it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.
 still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
 ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir-it of all kind-ness, be our guide.
 way of heal - ing; Spir-it of com-pas - sion, fill each heart.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen

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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 believers around the world, that all be united in faith and harmony in the body of Christ. Let your church on earth be a witness to the beloved community of your heavenly kingdom.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For your wondrous creation, that it thrives and flourishes as you intend. Raise up wise stewards to defend the natural world against carelessness and destruction. Safeguard endangered species and their habitats.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the nations of the world and all in authority, that they heed the cry of the outcast and ensure care for the most vulnerable. Give wisdom to leaders of countries, congregations, and communities, that they lead and serve justly.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For all who are lonely, grieving, or struggling with chronic pain, that they find comfort, community, and hope. Send relief to all who struggle with illness of any kind, especially those we now name aloud or in silence...

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For this congregation, for guests and those new to this faith community, that all may recognize the presence of Christ. Draw this community together in love and strengthen it in unwavering faith.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the saints before us whose work is done, that their faithful example continues to direct your church. May their witness remind us that your gifts and calling are irrevocable, whether in life or death.

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

"Great Is the Lord"

Lojeski

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.**

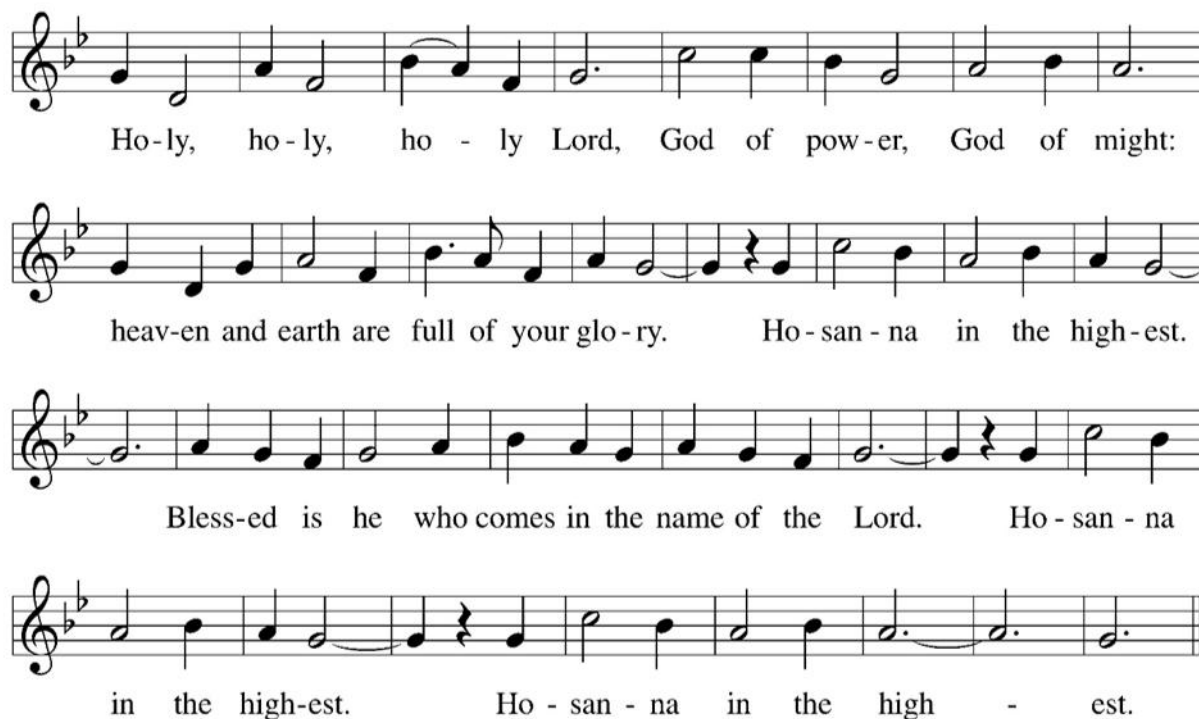
GREAT THANKSGIVING

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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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, 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

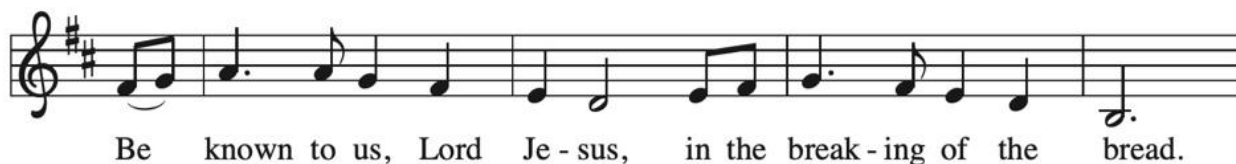
*The body of Christ given for you.
The blood of Christ shed for you.*

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Please join in singing the hymns which follow.

"Be Known to us, Lord Jesus"

ACS 12



"One Bread, One Body"

ELW 496

Refrain



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of



bles-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y



through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,
2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,
3 Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,



Refrain

wom - an or man, no more.
one in the Lord of all.
gath - ered to one for all.

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939

Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, SJ

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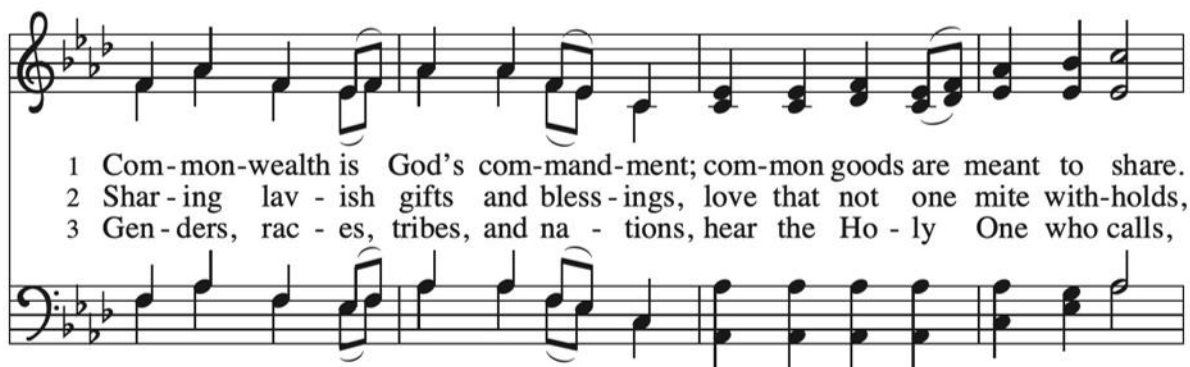
"Commonwealth Is God's Commandment"

ACS 1036

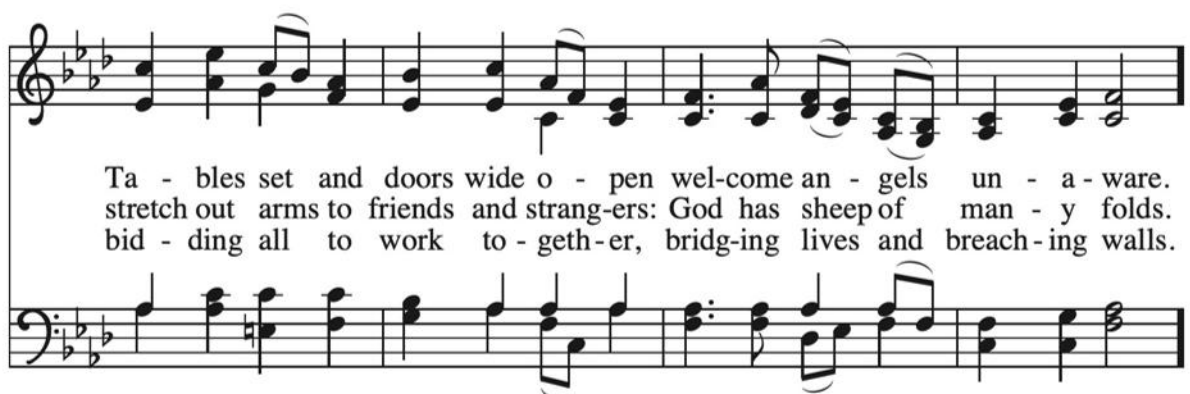
Pronunciation guide (see refrain): *Shanti* "shahn-tee". *Pax* pahks".

Maslaha "muhs-lah-hah".

These are words meaning "peace" from other religious traditions.

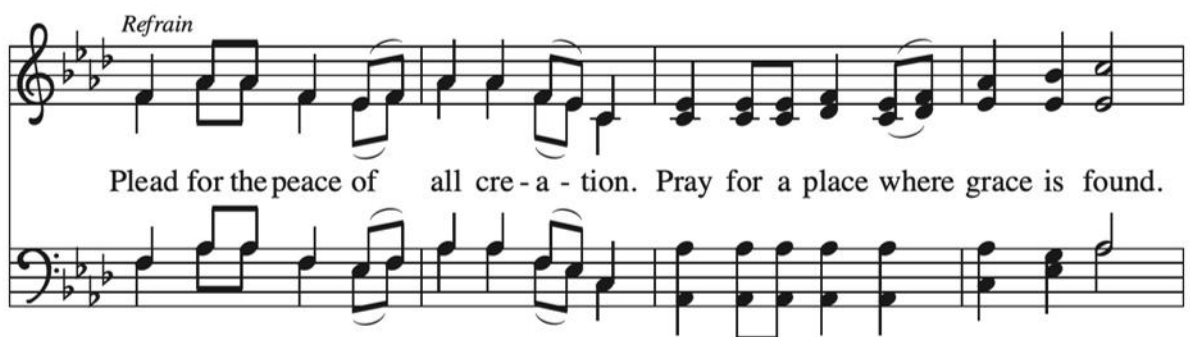


1 Com-mon-wealth is God's com-mand-ment; com-mon goods are meant to share.
2 Shar-ing lav-ish gifts and bless-ings, love that not one mite with-holds,
3 Gen-ders, rac-es, tribes, and na-tions, hear the Ho-ly One who calls,



Ta-bles set and doors wide o-pen wel-come an-gels un-a-ware.
stretch out arms to friends and strang-ers: God has sheep of man-y folds.
bid-ding all to work to-geth-er, bridg-ing lives and breach-ing walls.

Refrain



Plead for the peace of all cre-a-tion. Pray for a place where grace is found.



Shan-ti, pax, sha-lom, mas-la-ha: com-mon good is ho-ly ground.

Christ, our peace, you break down the walls that di - vide us;

Christ, our peace, come, make us one bod-y in you.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: CHRIST, OUR PEACE, Marty Haugen

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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 Him 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.

SENDING HYMN**"Jesus Shall Reign"**

ELW 434: 1,3,4,5



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

2026 HEALTH AND WHOLENESS

The August theme is centering for contemplative prayer.

Tip #3: The fruits of centering prayer are found in daily life. It creates a center of gravity within you, a place where the pendulum of your being naturally comes to rest. It increases your ability to be mindful of God's presence and at the same time fully present to situations in your life. From this centering you discover that you, God, and the world "out there" are not separate but flow together seamlessly through God's love and being. It's not so much a place you pay attention to as a place you pay attention from.

John 4:14 Whoever drinks the water that I shall give will never thirst; the water that I shall give will become in him a spring welling up into eternal life.

EVENTS

Memory Care Ministry Workshop hosted by Atrium Health and our Health & Wholeness Ministry will host it's last session this Wednesday **August 19** from 6-7:30pm in our Fellowship Hall. This **free** workshop will provide education and support for dementia caregivers. All materials and refreshments will be provided.

Topics include:

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

Credits/Acknowledgements

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ACS 1036 "Commonwealth Is God's Commandment"

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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THIS WEEK AT LIVING SAVIOUR

Sunday: August 16

- 9:15 Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 11:30 a.m. Monthly Council Meeting

Monday: August 17

- 11:30 a.m. School Supply Sorting
- 6:15 p.m. Yoga 4 You
- 7:00 p.m. Scout Troop 165

Tuesday: August 18

- 9:30 a.m. Yoga 4 You

Wednesday: August 19

- 8:00 a.m. Smithfield Breakfast
- 6:00 p.m. Memory Care Workshop

Thursday: August 20

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

Saturday: August 22

- 10:00 a.m. Yoga 4 You

Sunday: August 23

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



LIVING SAVIOUR

Lutheran Church

Living Saviour Lutheran Church
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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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