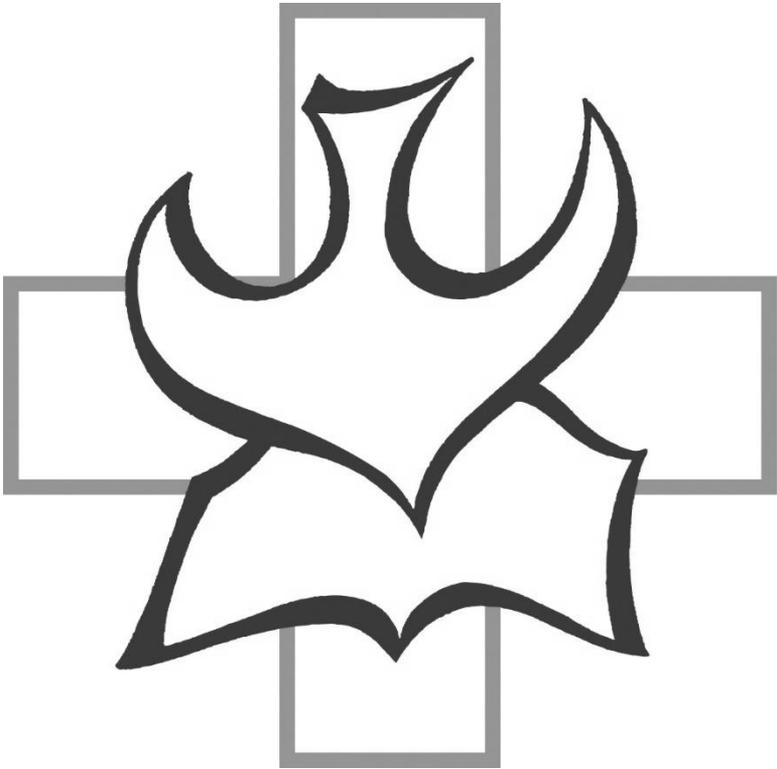


# The Lutheran Church of the Savior

**A Community of Faith:** *Centered in Christ – Called to Serve*



## Order of Worship

*August 24, 2025 9:00 AM*

# The Lutheran Church of the Savior

426 Davis Road - Bedford, MA 01730

church@lcsavior.org      781-275-6013

<https://www.lcsavior.org>

Rev. Nils Niemeier, Pastor

email: [pastor@lcsavior.org](mailto:pastor@lcsavior.org)

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## Introit

*Psalm 117; antiphon: Psalm 96:6a; 115:18*

Splendor and majesty are before him;

we will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore.

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, all nations!

Extol him, all peoples!

For great is his steadfast love toward us,

and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;*

*as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

Splendor and majesty are before him;

we will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore.

Praise the LORD!

## Communion Theology and Practice

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is intended for those:

- who have been baptized in the name of the Triune God,
- who have faith in Jesus Christ as God the Son in the flesh and their personal Savior from sin, death, and the devil;
- who believe that they have sin that needs forgiving, hurt that needs healing, and faith that needs strengthening;
- who are committed to amending their sinful ways; and
- who believe that in, with, and under the bread and wine they receive the true body and blood of the risen Christ, together with the forgiveness of all their sins.

*If you are a visitor with us this morning and wish to receive the Lord's Supper, please speak with the pastor before the service.*

*Thank you.*

# Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

## Divine Service

Welcome

### Opening Song

### King Of Glory

Tomlin, Reeves

Verse 1, Chorus 1, Verse 2, Chorus 1, Bridge x2, Verse 1, Chorus 2 x2

1. Lift up your gates, be lift - ed up, tell ev-'ry-  
(2. Lift up your) hands, be lift - ed up, Let the re-

4 one how great the love, the love come down from heav - en's gate  
deemed de - clare the love. And we bow down at heav - en's gate

7 to kiss the earth with hope and grace. Sing:  
to kiss the feet of hope and grace.

10 *To Coda*  $\oplus$   
Who is this King of Glo - ry? The Lord, strong,

13 and might - y! Who is this King of Glo - ry?

16 The Lord, strong and might - y!

19 1 2. Lift up your There is one God; He is

3 SOLO

continued on next page

22 Ho - ly, There is one Lord o - ver ev - 'ry - thing. There is

25 one King, He is Je - sus, King of glo - ry, strong

28 <sup>1</sup> and might - y! There is <sup>2</sup> and might - y! You are the King

31 of Glo - ry, the Lord, strong and might - y!

34 You are the King of Glo - ry, the Lord, strong

37 and might - y! <sup>2</sup> and might - y!

## Confession and Absolution

*Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✝}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Holy Lord, as we stand in your presence, we are aware of our sins of thought, word, and action.

**C** **We have not lived our lives according to your will.**

**P** We have failed to live up to your expectations.

**C** **We all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Hear us now, O Lord, as we confess our sins to you:

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

## Song

## A Pure Heart

Nelson

*Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus*

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of four staves of music. The first staff is labeled 'Chorus' and contains the notes A, G, F, E, D, C, B, A. The second staff is labeled 'Verse' and contains the notes G, F, E, D, C, B, A, G. The third staff is labeled 'Chorus' and contains the notes A, G, F, E, D, C, B, A. The fourth staff is labeled 'Verse' and contains the notes G, F, E, D, C, B, A, G. Chord symbols are placed above and below the notes. The lyrics are: 'A pure heart, that's what I long for, a heart that fol - lows hard af - ter Thee; pure heart, that's what I long for, a heart that fol - lows hard af - ter Thee.'

Chorus C/F F F<sup>2</sup>/A 3 B<sup>b</sup>maj<sup>7</sup> Am<sup>7</sup>  
A pure heart, that's what I long for, a  
Gm<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup>/C F Gm<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup>/C  
heart that fol - lows hard af - ter Thee; A  
C/F F F<sup>2</sup>/A 3 B<sup>b</sup>maj<sup>7</sup> C/D Dm  
pure heart, that's what I long for, a  
Gm<sup>7</sup> B<sup>b</sup>/C F F<sup>2</sup>/A  
heart that fol - lows hard af - ter Thee. A

*continued on next page*

Verse

heart that hides Your Word so that sin will not come in, a  
heart that's un - di - vid - ed but  
one You rule and reign;  
heart that beats com - pas - sion, that  
pleas - es You, my Lord, a sweet a  
- ro - ma of wor - ship that  
ris - es to Your throne.

## Service of the Word

### Psalm

*Psalm 50:1–15; antiphon: v. 23*

**A** Together, we speak Psalm 50 responsively:

<sup>1</sup>The Mighty One, God the LORD,  
speaks and summons the earth  
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

<sup>2</sup>**Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,  
God shines forth.**

<sup>3</sup>Our God comes; he does not keep silence;  
before him is a devouring fire,  
around him a mighty tempest.

**<sup>4</sup>He calls to the heavens above  
and to the earth, that he may judge his people:**

<sup>5</sup>"Gather to me my faithful ones,  
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"

**<sup>6</sup>The heavens declare his righteousness,  
for God himself is judge!**

<sup>7</sup>"Hear, O my people, and I will speak;  
O Israel, I will testify against you.  
I am God, your God.

**<sup>8</sup>Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you;  
your burnt offerings are continually before me.**

<sup>9</sup>I will not accept a bull from your house  
or goats from your folds.

**<sup>10</sup>For every beast of the forest is mine,  
the cattle on a thousand hills.**

<sup>11</sup>I know all the birds of the hills,  
and all that moves in the field is mine.

**<sup>12</sup>"If I were hungry, I would not tell you,  
for the world and its fullness are mine.**

<sup>13</sup>Do I eat the flesh of bulls  
or drink the blood of goats?

**<sup>14</sup>Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,  
and perform your vows to the Most High,**

<sup>15</sup>and call upon me in the day of trouble;  
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me."

**G Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## Collect of the Day

**P** Let us pray.

O Lord, You have called us to enter Your kingdom through the narrow door. Guide us by Your Word and Spirit, and lead us now and always into the feast of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 66:18–23*

<sup>18</sup>For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, <sup>19</sup>and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands afar off, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations. <sup>20</sup>And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the LORD, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the LORD, just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD. <sup>21</sup>And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the LORD.

<sup>22</sup>For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the LORD,  
so shall your offspring and your name remain.

<sup>23</sup>From new moon to new moon,  
and from Sabbath to Sabbath,  
all flesh shall come to worship before me,  
declares the LORD."

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

*Hebrews 12:4–29*

<sup>4</sup>In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. <sup>5</sup>And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

"My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,  
nor be weary when reproved by him.

<sup>6</sup>For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,  
and chastises every son whom he receives."

<sup>7</sup>It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? <sup>8</sup>If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. <sup>9</sup>Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much

more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? <sup>10</sup>For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. <sup>11</sup>For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, <sup>13</sup>and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. <sup>14</sup>Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. <sup>15</sup>See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; <sup>16</sup>that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. <sup>17</sup>For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

<sup>18</sup>For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest <sup>19</sup>and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. <sup>20</sup>For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." <sup>21</sup>Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." <sup>22</sup>But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, <sup>23</sup>and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup>and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

<sup>25</sup>See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. <sup>26</sup>At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." <sup>27</sup>This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. <sup>28</sup>Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, <sup>29</sup>for our God is a consuming fire.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Holy Gospel

Luke 13:22–30

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

**G** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup>[Jesus] went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. <sup>23</sup>And someone said to him, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And he said to them, <sup>24</sup>"Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. <sup>25</sup>When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then he will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.' <sup>26</sup>Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' <sup>27</sup>But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!' <sup>28</sup>In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. <sup>29</sup>And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. <sup>30</sup>And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**G** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Nicene Creed

**G** **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the  
Father, by whom all things were made;**

who for us men and for our salvation came down from  
 heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin  
 Mary and was made man;  
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
 He suffered and was buried.  
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
 and ascended into heaven  
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living  
 and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the Lord and giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
 glorified, who spoke by the prophets.  
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
 and the life  $\text{✝}$  of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

**Song of the Day**

All Hail

*Harrison, Hunt, Evans*

**VERSE**

1. He is ri - sen from the grave, un - de -  
 men - tion of His name, cap - ti -  
 glo - ry, robed in light, all sur -  
 feat - ed, Je - sus reigns. With all po - wer in His  
 va - ted, all pro - claim. There's no li - mit to His  
 pass - ing is His might. Christ, our Sa - viour, lift - ed  
 name, He is o - ver all, He is o - ver  
 reign, He is o - ver all, He is o - ver  
 high, He is o - ver all, He is o - ver

*continued on next page*

10 **CHORUS**  
 all. 2. At the Christ, su-preme, the  
 all.  O-ver all, Your  
 all.

14   
 na-tions bow, our hearts a-dore as we cry out, } ho-  
 king-dom reigns, the earth re-sounds with Je-sus' praise, }

17 **NO REPEAT 1**  
 sa-nna in the high-est, Je-sus is the

20   
 great-est 3. Veiled in

23 **BRIDGE**  
All praise, all praise

26   
 the pow-er of Je-sus' name. All hail,

29   
 our Sa- viour the name o-ver ev 'ry name.

32   
 All praise name o-ver ev - 'ry name.

# Sermon

*Stand*

## Prayers of the Church Family and the Lord's Prayer

- L** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*Response after each petition*

- L** Lord, in your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**

**C** **Amen.**

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C** **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**

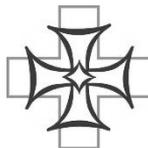
**and the power and the glory**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

## Benediction

- P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** **Amen.**



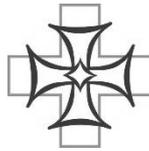
# Song

# Sanctuary

Thompson, Scruggs

*Sing twice through*

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc-tu - ar - y, pure and  
ho - ly, tried and true; with thanks-giv - ing, I'll be a  
liv - ing sanc-tu - ar - y for You.



## Acknowledgments

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# Resources for Meditation this Week

## ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

24 August 2025

### Readings

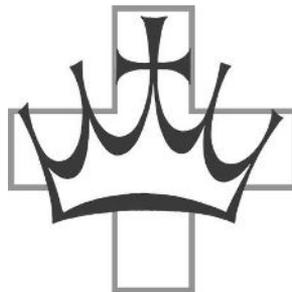
Isaiah 66:18–23

Hebrews 12:4–24 (25–29)

Luke 13:22–30

### ***The Cross of Christ Is the Way into the Kingdom of God***

With the cross of Christ, the time has come *“to gather all nations and tongues”* (Is. 66:18). The sign of the cross is set forth in the preaching of the Gospel, the declaration of the Lord’s glory *“among the nations”* (Is. 66:19). Many *“will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God”* (Luke 13:29), but only by the narrow way of the cross. Those who refuse to follow Christ crucified will ultimately find only *“weeping and gnashing of teeth”* (Luke 13:28), whereas Christ’s disciples, called from all the nations, will eat and drink with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of God. They will come into *“the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem”* (Heb. 12:22).



**Readings**

Proverbs 25:2–10

Hebrews 13:1–17

Luke 14:1–14

***We Are Humbled and Exalted by the Cross of Christ***

*“Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled,”* Jesus proclaims, but *“he who humbles himself will be exalted”* (Luke 14:11). For your hope is in the name of the Lord, who humbled Himself unto death on the cross and was exalted in His resurrection. So, are you humbled by His cross, and *“at the resurrection of the just,”* He will say to you, *“Friend, move up higher”* (Luke 14:10, 13–14)? By His grace, the King will honor you *“in the presence of a noble,”* where your eyes will gaze upon the Prince, His dearly beloved Son (Prov. 25:7). As He has dealt so graciously with you, *“do not neglect to do good and to share what you have”* (Heb. 13:16), and *“do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers”* (Heb. 13:2). Humble yourself and exalt your neighbor.

