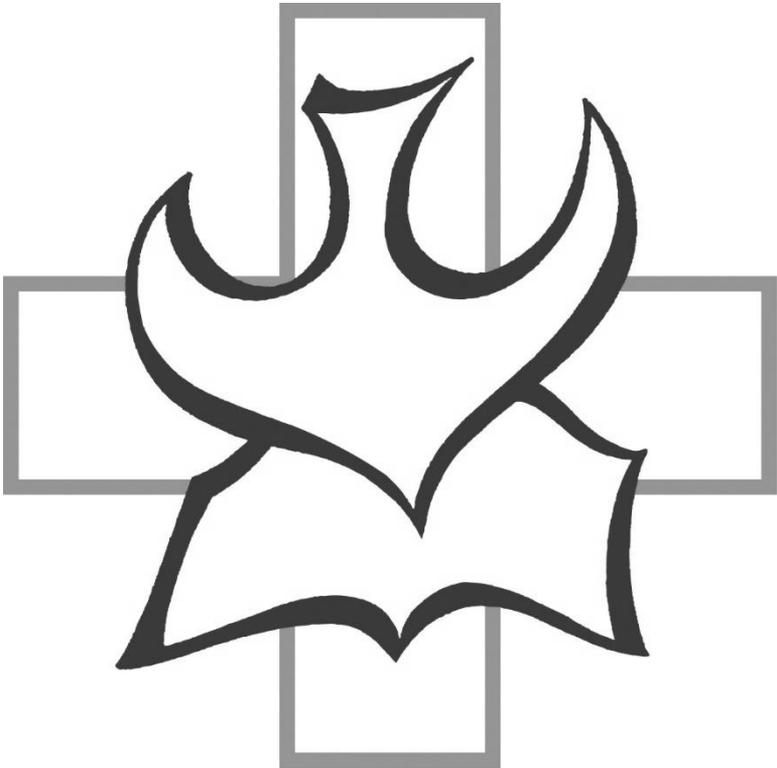


# The Lutheran Church of the Savior

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



## Order of Worship

*August 31, 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 75:1-2, 6, 9; antiphon: v. 7*

It is God who executes judgment,

putting down one and lifting up another.

We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks, for your name is near.

We recount your wondrous deeds.

At the set time that I appoint

I will judge with equity.

For not from the east or from the west

and not from the wilderness comes lifting up.

But I will declare it forever;

I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.

## 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.*

# Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Divine Service, Setting One

Welcome

*Stand*

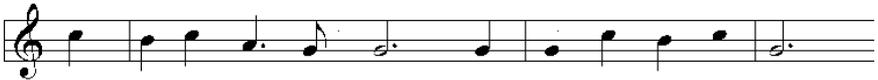
Opening Hymn

**When Morning Gilds the Skies**

LSB 807



1 When morn-ing gilds the skies, My heart, a - wak - ing, cries,  
2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, This is my song of songs:  
3 No love - lier an - ti - phon In all high heav'n is known  
4 Ye na - tions of man - kind, In this your con - cord find:  
5 Sing, suns and stars of space, Sing, ye that see His face,



"May Je - sus Christ be praised!" When eve - ning shad - ows fall,  
"May Je - sus Christ be praised!" God's ho - ly house of prayer  
Than "Je - sus Christ be praised!" There to the e - ter - nal Word  
"May Je - sus Christ be praised!" Let all the earth a - round  
Sing, "Je - sus Christ be praised!" God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,



This rings my cur - few call: "May Je - sus Christ be praised!"  
Hath none that can com - pare With "Je - sus Christ be praised!"  
The e - ter - nal psalm is heard: "May Je - sus Christ be praised!"  
Ring joy - ous with the sound: "May Je - sus Christ be praised!"  
Both now and ev - er - more Shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

Text and Tune: Public domain

Reception of Members by Transfer or Profession of Faith

## Confession and Absolution

*Stand*

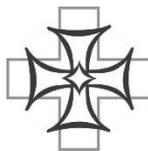
*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**
  
- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Kneel/Stand*

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

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- 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.**



*Stand*

# Service of the Word

## Psalm

*Psalm 131; antiphon: v. 2*

**A** Together, we speak Psalm 131 responsively:

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, my heart is not lifted up;  
my eyes are not raised too high;  
I do not occupy myself with things  
too great and too marvelous for me.

**<sup>2</sup>But I have calmed and quieted my soul,  
like a weaned child with its mother;  
like a weaned child is my soul within me.**

<sup>3</sup>O Israel, hope in the LORD  
from this time forth and forevermore.

**C** **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.**

## Kyrie

*LSB 152*

**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



**C** A - men.

## Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 154

**A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.



**C** Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



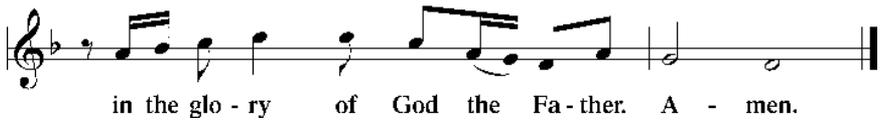
You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.



**P** Let us pray.

O Lord of grace and mercy, teach us by Your Holy Spirit to follow the example of Your Son in true humility, that we may withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds avoid ungodly pride; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Proverbs 25:2–10*

- <sup>2</sup>It is the glory of God to conceal things,  
but the glory of kings is to search things out.
- <sup>3</sup>As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth,  
so the heart of kings is unsearchable.
- <sup>4</sup>Take away the dross from the silver,  
and the smith has material for a vessel;
- <sup>5</sup>take away the wicked from the presence of the king,  
and his throne will be established in righteousness.
- <sup>6</sup>Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence  
or stand in the place of the great,
- <sup>7</sup>for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"  
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

What your eyes have seen  
    <sup>8</sup>do not hastily bring into court,  
for what will you do in the end,  
    when your neighbor puts you to shame?  
<sup>9</sup>Argue your case with your neighbor himself,  
    and do not reveal another's secret,  
<sup>10</sup>lest he who hears you bring shame upon you,  
    and your ill repute have no end.

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

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

## Epistle

*Hebrews 13:1–17*

<sup>1</sup>Let brotherly love continue. <sup>2</sup>Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. <sup>3</sup>Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. <sup>4</sup>Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. <sup>5</sup>Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." <sup>6</sup>So we can confidently say,

"The Lord is my helper;  
    I will not fear;  
    what can man do to me?"

<sup>7</sup>Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup>Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. <sup>9</sup>Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. <sup>10</sup>We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. <sup>11</sup>For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. <sup>12</sup>So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. <sup>13</sup>Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. <sup>14</sup>For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. <sup>15</sup>Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to

God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. <sup>16</sup>Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

<sup>17</sup>Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

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

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

*Stand*

### Alleluia and Verse

*LSB 156*



**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### Holy Gospel

*Luke 14:1-14*

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

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

<sup>1</sup>One Sabbath, when [Jesus] went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. <sup>2</sup>And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. <sup>3</sup>And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?" <sup>4</sup>But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. <sup>5</sup>And he said to them, "Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?" <sup>6</sup>And they could not reply to these things.

<sup>7</sup>Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, <sup>8</sup>"When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, <sup>9</sup>and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place

to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup>But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. <sup>11</sup>For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

<sup>12</sup>He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. <sup>13</sup>But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, <sup>14</sup>and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

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

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

## Nicene Creed

LSB 158

**C** **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  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

## Hymn of the Day

### Son of God, Eternal Savior

LSB 842



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and  
 2 As You, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, So may we for  
 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and  
 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us  
 oth - ers live, Free - ly have Your gifts been grant - ed;  
 Prince of Peace; Hush the storm of strife and pas - sion,  
 truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us



Hal - lows all our hu - man race, You our Head, who, throned in  
 Free - ly may Your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and Yours the  
 Bid its cru - el dis - cords cease. By Your pa - tient years of  
 Hal - lows all our hu - man race: By Your pray - ing, by Your



glo - ry, For Your own will ev - er plead: Fill us with Your  
 sil - ver, Yours the wealth of land and sea; We but stew - ards  
 toil - ing, By Your si - lent hours of pain, Quench our fe - vered  
 will - ing That Your peo - ple should be one, Grant, O grant our



love and pit - y, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.  
 of Your boun - ty Held in sol - emn trust will be.  
 thirst of plea - sure, Stem our self - ish greed of gain.  
 hope's fru - i - tion: Here on earth Your will be done.

## Sermon



*Stand*

### Prayer of the Church

- 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.**

### Lord's Prayer

*LSB 162*

- 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.**

*Sit*

# Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

LSB 636 sts. 1-4, 8



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, Leave the  
 2 Has - ten as a bride to meet Him, And with  
 3 He who craves a pre - cious trea - sure Nei - ther  
 4 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der O - ver  
 8 Je - sus, bread of life, I pray You, Let me



gloom - y haunts of sad - ness, Come in - to the day - light's  
 lov - ing rev - 'rence greet Him, For with words of life im -  
 cost nor pain will mea - sure; But the price - less gifts of  
 this sur - pass - ing won - der That the bread of life is  
 glad - ly here o - bey You. By Your love I am in -



splen - dor, There with joy your prais - es ren - der.  
 mor - tal He is knock - ing at your por - tal.  
 heav - en God to us has free - ly giv - en.  
 bound - less Though the souls it feeds are count - less:  
 vit - ed, Bc Your love with love re - quit - ed;



Bless the One whose grace un - bound - ed This a - maz - ing  
 O - pen wide the gates be - fore Him, Say - ing, as you  
 Though the wealth of earth were prof - fered, None could buy the  
 With the choic - est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to  
 By this Sup - per let me mea - sure, Lord, how vast and



ban - quet found - ed; He, though heav'n - ly, high, and  
 there a - dore Him: Grant, Lord, that I now re -  
 gifts here of - fered: Christ's true bod - y, for you  
 us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious con - so -  
 deep love's trea - sure. Through the gift of grace You



ho - ly, Deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.  
 ceive You, That I nev - er - more will leave You.  
 riv - en, And His blood, for you oncc giv - en.  
 la - tion, Pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion!  
 give me As Your guest in heav'n re - ceive me.

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## **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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## Resources for Meditation this Week

### TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

31 August 2025

#### 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.



**Readings**

Deuteronomy 30:15–20

Philemon 1–21

Luke 14:25–35

***Christ Jesus Has Paid the Cost of Discipleship for You***

A disciple of Jesus Christ will *“bear his own cross”* (Luke 14:27) and follow the Lord through death into life. Discipleship is costly because it crucifies the old man with *“all that he has”* (Luke 14:33), in order to raise up the new man in Christ. The disciple disavows *“his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life”* (Luke 14:26), in deference to Christ. That way of the cross is impossible, except that Christ Jesus has already paid the cost. His cross is set before you as *“life and good, death and evil”* (Deut. 30:15). Taking up His cross is to *“choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him”* (Deut. 30:19–20). To live that life in Christ is also to bear His cross in love, *“that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your own accord”* (Philemon 14).

