

# The Lutheran Church of the Savior

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



## Order of Worship

*September 14, 2025 10:45 AM*

# The Lutheran Church of the Savior

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Rev. Nils Niemeier, Pastor

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## Introit

*Psalm 98:1, 4, 6; antiphon: v. 2*

The LORD has made known his salvation;

he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;

break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

With trumpets and the sound of the horn

make a joyful noise before the King, 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.*

The LORD has made known his salvation;

he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

## 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.*

# Holy Cross Day

Divine Service, Setting Three

Welcome

Opening Hymn

**Awake, My Heart, with Gladness**

*LSB 467 sts. 1-4, 6*



1 A - wake, my heart, with glad - ness, See what to - day is done;  
2 The foe in tri - umph shout - ed When Christ lay in the tomb;  
3 This is a sight that glad - dens—What peace it doth im - part!  
4 Now hell, its prince, the dev - il, Of all their pow'r are shorn;  
6 Now I will cling for - ev - er To Christ, my Sav - ior true;



Now, af - ter gloom and sad - ness, Comes forth the glo - rious sun.  
But lo, he now is rout - ed, His boast is turned to gloom.  
Now noth - ing ev - er sad - dens The joy with - in my heart.  
Now I am safe from e - vil, And sin I laugh to scorn.  
My Lord will leave me nev - er, What - e'er He pass - es through.



My Sav - ior there was laid Where our bed must be made  
For Christ a - gain is free; In glo - rious vic - to - ry  
No gloom shall ev - er shake, No foe shall ev - er take  
Grim death with all its might Can - not my soul af - fright;  
He rends death's i - ron chain; He breaks through sin and pain;



When to the realms of light Our spir - it wings its flight.  
He who is strong to save Has tri - umphed o'er the grave.  
The hope which God's own Son In love for me has won.  
It is a pow'r - less form, How - e'er it rave and storm.  
He shat - ters hell's grim thrall; I fol - low Him through all.

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## Confession and Absolution

*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** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C who made heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Kneel/Stand*

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

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I 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 40:1–11; antiphon: v. 13



**A** Together, we chant Psalm 40 responsively:

**A** *<sup>13</sup>Be pleased, O Lord, to de- | liver me!\**  
*O Lord, make haste to | help me!*

<sup>1</sup>I waited patiently | for the LORD;\*  
he inclined to me and | heard my cry.

**<sup>2</sup>He drew me up from the pit of destruction,  
out of the | miry bog,\*  
and set my feet upon a rock,  
making my | steps secure.**

<sup>3</sup>He put a new song in my mouth,  
a song of praise | to our God.\*  
Many will see and fear,  
and put their trust | in the LORD.

**<sup>4</sup>Blessèd is the man who makes  
the | LORD his trust,\*  
who does not turn to the proud,  
to those who go astray af- | ter a lie!**

<sup>5</sup>You have multiplied, O LORD my God,  
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;  
none can com- | pare with you!\*

I will proclaim and tell of them,  
yet they are more than | can be told.

**<sup>6</sup>Sacrifice and offering you have not desired,  
but you have given me an | open ear.\*  
Burnt offering and sin offering  
you have | not required.**

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, "Behold, | I have come;\*"  
in the scroll of the book it is writ- | ten of me:

**<sup>8</sup>I desire to do your will, | O my God;\***  
**your law is with- | in my heart."**

<sup>9</sup>I have told the glad news of deliverance  
in the great congre- | gation;\*  
behold, I have not restrained my lips,  
as you know, | O LORD.

**<sup>10</sup>I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart;  
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your sal- | vation;\*  
I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness  
from the great congre- | gation.**

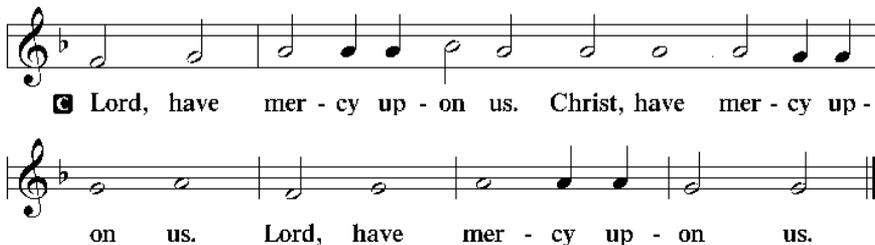
<sup>11</sup>As for you, O LORD, you will not restrain  
your mer- | cy from me;\*  
your steadfast love and your faithfulness will  
ever pre- | serve me!

**C** **Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

**A** *<sup>13</sup>Be pleased, O Lord, to de- | liver me!\**  
*O Lord, make haste to | help me!*

## Kyrie

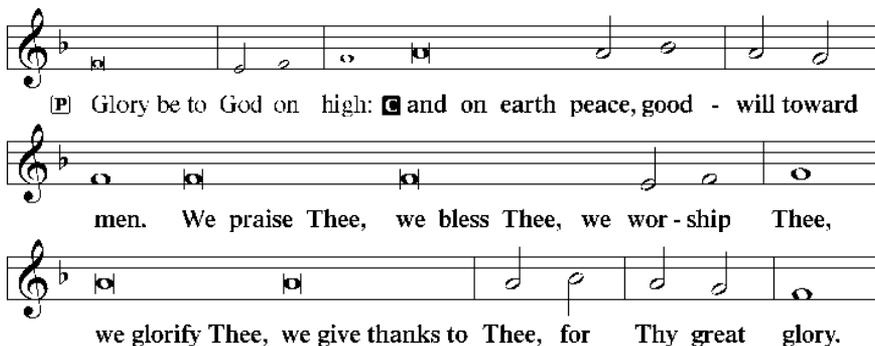
LSB 186



**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187



**P** Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward  
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,  
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up - on us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Let us pray.

Merciful God, Your Son, Jesus Christ, was lifted high upon the cross that He might bear the sins of the world and draw all people to Himself. Grant that we who glory in His death for our redemption may faithfully heed His call to bear the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Numbers 21:4-9*

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>And the people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food." <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. <sup>7</sup>And the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live." <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

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

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

**Choir**

"Amazing Grace"

*Newton, Courtney*

**Epistle**

*1 Corinthians 1:18-25*

<sup>18</sup>The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

<sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

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

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

*Stand*

### Alleluia

*LSB 190*



**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

### Holy Gospel

*John 12:20–33*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twelfth chapter.



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.



**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 ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

## Hymn of the Day

### Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle

LSB 454



1 Sing, my tongue, the glo - rious bat - tle; Sing the end - ing  
 2 Tell how, when at length the full - ness Of the ap - point - ed  
 3 Thus, with thir - ty years ac - com - plished, He went forth from  
 4 Faith - ful cross, true sign of tri - umph, Be for all the  
 △ 5 Un - to God be praise and glo - ry; To the Fa - ther



of the fray, Now a - bove the cross, the tro - phy,  
 time was come, He, the Word, was born of wom - an,  
 Naz - a - reth, Des - tined, ded - i - cat - ed, will - ing,  
 no - blest tree; None in fo - liage, none in blos - som,  
 and the Son, To the e - ter - nal Spir - it hon - or



Sound the loud tri - um - phant lay; Tell how Christ, the  
 Left for us His Fa - ther's home, Blazed the path of  
 Did His work, and met His death; Like a lamb He  
 None in fruit thine e - qual be; Sym - bol of the  
 Now and ev - er - more be done; Praise and glo - ry



world's re - deem - er, As a vic - tim won the day.  
 true o - be - dience, Shone as light a - midst the gloom.  
 hum - bly yield - ed On the cross His dy - ing breath.  
 world's re - demp - tion, For the weight that hung on thee!  
 in the high - est While the time - less a - ges run.

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## 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 196*

- 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.**

*Sit*

## What Wondrous Love Is This

LSB 543



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When  
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; To  
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; And



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this That  
I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When I was sink-ing down Be-  
God and to the Lamb I will sing; To God and to the Lamb, Who  
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free, I'll

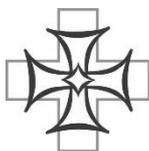


caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dread-ful curse for my  
neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a-side His crown for my  
is the great I AM, While mil-lions join the theme, I will  
sing His love for me, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, To bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!  
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a-side His crown for my soul.  
sing, I will sing, While mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.  
on, I'll sing on, And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on.

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### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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"Amazing Grace". words and music by John Newton and Craig Courtney

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## Resources for Meditation this Week

### FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

14 September 2025

#### Readings

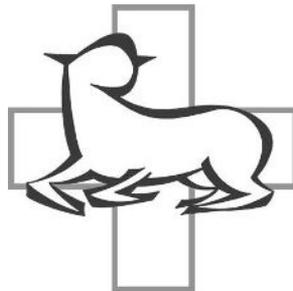
Ezekiel 34:11–24

1 Timothy 1:(5–11) 12–17

Luke 15:1–10

#### ***Jesus Christ Is the Great Shepherd of His Sheep***

*"The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Tim. 1:15). As He had mercy on Paul, in order to "display his perfect patience" (1 Tim. 1:16), so also does He seek out His sheep "from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness" (Ezek. 34:12). To deliver His flock, He "will seek the lost, ... bring back the strayed, ... bind up the injured, and ... strengthen the weak" (Ezek. 34:16), and "they shall no longer be a prey" (Ezek. 34:22). He sets over them one great Good Shepherd, the Son of David, who "shall feed them and be their shepherd" (Ezek. 34:23). For Christ Jesus is the one man who, "having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them," would "leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it" (Luke 15:4). When He finds the lost one and brings it home rejoicing, "the angels of God" and all the company of heaven rejoice with Him, with great joy (Luke 15:7, 10).*



**Readings**

Amos 8:4–7

1 Timothy 2:1–15

Luke 16:1–15

***The Lord Is Rich in His Grace and Mercy***

Because God, our Savior, *“desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”* (1 Tim. 2:4), He urges *“that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people”* (1 Tim. 2:1). Christians should so pray *“without anger or quarreling,”* but *“adorn themselves in respectable apparel, with modesty and self-control”* (1 Tim. 2:8, 9). For the Lord does not forget *“the poor of the land”* (Amos 8:4). He remembers them according to the foolishness of the cross. *“For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God”* (Luke 16:15). Though we try to justify ourselves *“before men,”* God knows our sinful hearts and calls us to repentance (Luke 16:15). Though we are *“not strong enough to dig,”* and we are *“ashamed to beg”* (Luke 16:3), He justifies us by His grace and welcomes us into His *“eternal dwellings”* (Luke 16:9). More shrewd than even *“the sons of this world”* (Luke 16:8), He requires His stewards of the Gospel to bestow forgiveness freely.

