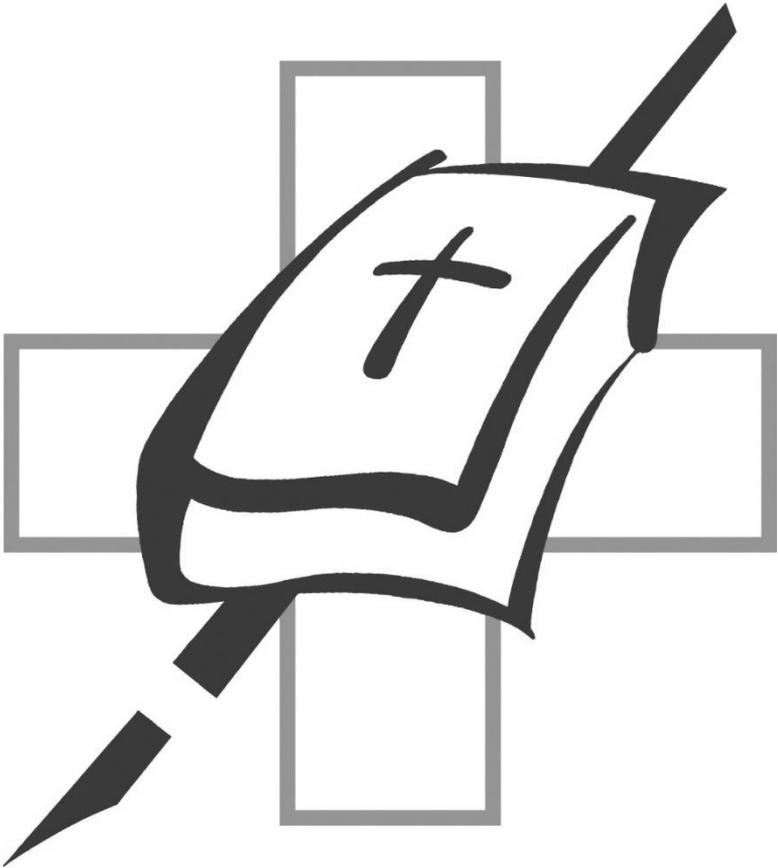


The Lutheran Church of the Savior

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



Order of Worship

September 21, 2025 10:45 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

Introit

Psalm 92:1-5; antiphon: Matthew 9:13b, c

I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.

For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.

It is good to give thanks to the LORD,

to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

to declare your steadfast love in the morning,

and your faithfulness by night,

to the music of the lute and the harp,

to the melody of the lyre.

For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;

at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

How great are your works, O LORD!

Your thoughts are very deep!

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.

St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Divine Service

Welcome

Opening Song

Sing Of Your Love

Poythress, White

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

Musical score for the opening song "Sing Of Your Love" by Poythress and White. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). It consists of eight staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff is labeled "VERSE" and begins with the lyrics "I. When my heart is heav -". The second staff continues with "y, when my soul is vexed with shame; When". The third staff continues with "my mind is bur - dened, I will call up-on Your Name;". The fourth staff continues with "When the road I walk is eas - y, when the sun -". The fifth staff continues with "shine rules the day, when I feel You close be - side". The sixth staff continues with "me, I will call up-on Your Name. I will dwell". The seventh staff is labeled "CHORUS" and begins with "in Your tab-er-nac - le, I will hide be-neath Your wings;". The eighth staff continues with "On the rock that is high-er than I, I will sing".

VERSE

I. When my heart is heav -
y, when my soul is vexed with shame; When
my mind is bur - dened, I will call up-on Your Name;
When the road I walk is eas - y, when the sun -
shine rules the day, when I feel You close be - side
me, I will call up-on Your Name. I will dwell
CHORUS
in Your tab-er-nac - le, I will hide be-neath Your wings;
On the rock that is high-er than I, I will sing

continued on next page

35 of Your love, sing of Your love, sing, of Your love

38 for me. 2. In a world

33 **VERSE**
that's grow - ing dark - er, where it seems all hope is lost,

36 I will find a light to cling to in the shad -

39 ow of Your cross; 'Cause Your love is nev - er end -

42 ing, and this one truth re - mains; There's sal - va -

45 tion for ev - 'ry - one that calls up-on Your Name.

48 I will dwell I will sing

51 of Your love, sing of Your love, sing of Your love;

54 **CHORUS**
of Your love. and I will dwell in Your tab - er - nac -

57 le, I will hide be - neath Your wings; On the rock

60 that is high-er than I, I will sing of Your love;

63 I will dwell in Your tab-er-nac-le, I will hide

66 be-neath Your wings; On the rock that is high-er than I,

69 I will sing of Your love, sing of Your love, sing,

72 of Your love for me.

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** 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

Before The Throne

Bancroft, Cook

Verse 1, Verse 2, Instrumental, Verse 3

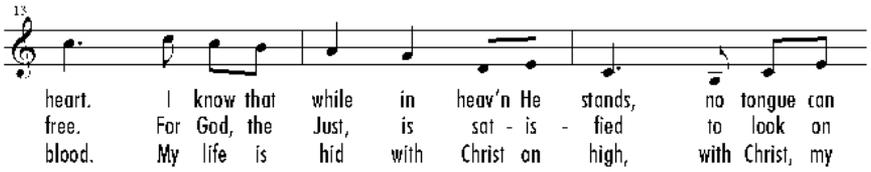
1. Be - fore the throne of God a - bove, I have a
2. When Sa - tan tempts me to des - pair, and tells me
3. Be - hold Him there, the sin - less Lamb! My per - fect,

strong and per - fect plea: a great High Priest whose name is
of the guilt with - in, up - ward I look and see Him
spot - less right - eous - ness. The great un - change - a - ble I

Love, who ev - er lives and pleads for me. My name is
there, who made an end of all my sin. Be - cause the
AM, the King of Glor - y and of Grace. One with Him -

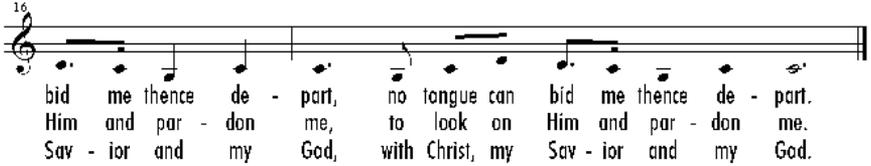
grav - en on His hands. My name is writ - ten on His
sin - less Sav - ior died, my sin - ful soul is count - ed
self, I can - not die. My soul is pur - chased by His

13



heart. I know that while in heav'n He stands, no tongue can
free. For God, the Just, is sat - is - fied to look on
blood. My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my

16



bid me thence de - part, no tongue can bid me thence de - part.
Him and par - don me, to look on Him and par - don me.
Sav - ior and my God, with Christ, my Sav - ior and my God.

Service of the Word

Psalm

Psalm 119:33–40; antiphon: v. 35

A Together, we speak Psalm 119 responsively:

³³Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes;
and I will keep it to the end.

³⁴**Give me understanding, that I may keep your law
and observe it with my whole heart.**

³⁵Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight in it.

³⁶**Incline my heart to your testimonies,
and not to selfish gain!**

³⁷Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things;
and give me life in your ways.

³⁸**Confirm to your servant your promise,
that you may be feared.**

³⁹Turn away the reproach that I dread,
for your just decrees are good.

⁴⁰**Behold, I long for your precepts;
in your righteousness give me life!**

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.**

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

O Son of God, our blessed Savior Jesus Christ, You called Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist. Through his faithful and inspired witness, grant that we also may follow You, leaving behind all covetous desires and love of riches; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 2:8—3:11

⁸“But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Be not rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you.” ⁹And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. ¹⁰And he spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it words of lamentation and mourning and woe.

¹And he said to me, “Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.” ²So I opened my mouth, and he gave me this scroll to eat. ³And he said to me, “Son of man, feed your belly with this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it.” Then I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey.

⁴And he said to me, “Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with my words to them. ⁵For you are not sent to a people of foreign speech and a hard language, but to the house of Israel— ⁶not to many peoples of foreign speech and a hard language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, if I sent you to such, they would listen to you. ⁷But the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, for they are not willing to listen to me. Because all the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart. ⁸Behold, I have made your face as hard as their faces, and your forehead as hard as their foreheads. ⁹Like emery harder than flint have I made your forehead. Fear them not, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house.” ¹⁰Moreover, he said to me, “Son of man, all my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart, and hear with your ears. ¹¹And go to the exiles, to your people, and speak to them and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD,’ whether they hear or refuse to hear.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Ephesians 4:7–16

⁷But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it says,

“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,
and he gave gifts to men.”

⁹(In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 9:9–13

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the ninth chapter.

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

⁹As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him.

¹⁰And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹²But when

he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

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 ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Song of the Day

Firm Foundation

Gordon, Harvill

Chorus x2, Verse 1, Chorus, Verse 2, Chorus, Tag

CHORUS

F Bb Csus F

Je - sus, You're my firm foun - da - tion, I know I can stand -

- se - cure; Je - sus, You're my firm foun - da - tion, -

I put my hope in Your ho - ly Word, -

I put my hope in Your ho - ly Word. *Fine*

VERSE MEN in unison F C/F F WOMEN in unison F C/F F

1. I have a liv - ing hope,
2. Your Word is faith - ful,

1. I have a liv - ing hope,
2. Your Word is faith - ful,

continued on next page

I have a fu - ture;
might - y in pow - er;

God has a plan for me,
God will de - liv - er me, of of

D.C. al Fine

of of this I'm sure.
of of this I'm sure.

this I'm sure.
this I'm sure.

Sermon



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:

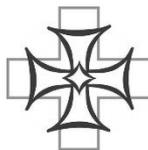
C **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**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

O Church, Arise

Getty, Townend

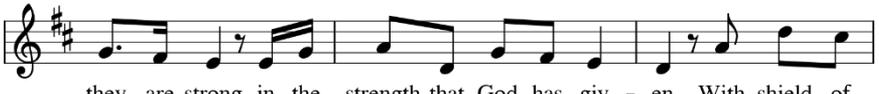
Verse 1, Verse 2, Verse 3, Instrumental, Verse 4



1. O Church, a - rise, and put your ar - mour on; Hear the
 2. Our call to war, to love the cap - tive soul, but to
 3. Come see the cross, where love and mer - cy meet, as the
 4. So Spir - it, come, put strength in ev - 'ry stride, give



call of Christ our Cap - tain. For now the weak can say that
 rage a - gainst the cap - tor; And with the sword that makes the
 Son of God is strick - en; Then see His foes lie crushed be -
 grace for ev - 'ry hur - dle; That we may run with faith, to



they are strong, in the strength that God has giv - en. With shield of
 wound - ed whole, we will fight with faith and val - our. When faced with
 neath His feet, for the Con - quer - or has ris - en. And as the
 win the prize of a serv - ant, good and faith - ful. As saints of



faith and belt of truth, we'll stand a - gainst the dev - il's
 trials on ev - 'ry side, we know the out - come is se -
 stone is rolled a - way and Christ e - merg - es from the
 old still line the way, re - tell - ing tri - umphs of His



lies; An ar - my bold, whose bat - tle cry is Love, reach - ing
 cure. And Christ will have the prize for which He died, an in -
 grave, this vic - t'ry march con - tin - ues till the day ev - 'ry
 grace, we hear their calls, and hun - ger for the day when, with



out to those in dark - ness.
 her - i - tance of na - tions.
 eye and heart shall see Him.
 Christ, we stand in glo - ry.

Acknowledgments

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Resources for Meditation this Week

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

28 September 2025

Readings

Amos 6:1–7

1 Timothy 3:1–13 or 1 Timothy 6:6–19

Luke 16:19–31

Our Help Is Not in Worldly Riches

"The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side," and "the rich man also died and was buried" (Luke 16:22). The poor man Lazarus, who knew many bad things on earth, began to be comforted forever, whereas the rich man, after a lifetime of good things, began to be *"in anguish"* (Luke 16:25). Therefore, *"woe to those who are at ease in Zion"* (Amos 6:1), for *"the revelry of those who stretch themselves out shall pass away"* (Amos 6:7). The wealthy are urged *"not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches,"* but *"to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share"* (1 Tim. 6:17–18). Covetous desire for what God has not given is idolatry and *"a root of all kinds of evils"* (1 Tim. 6:10). Contentment belongs to faith, by which the Christian has *"great gain"* in godliness (1 Tim. 6:6).

