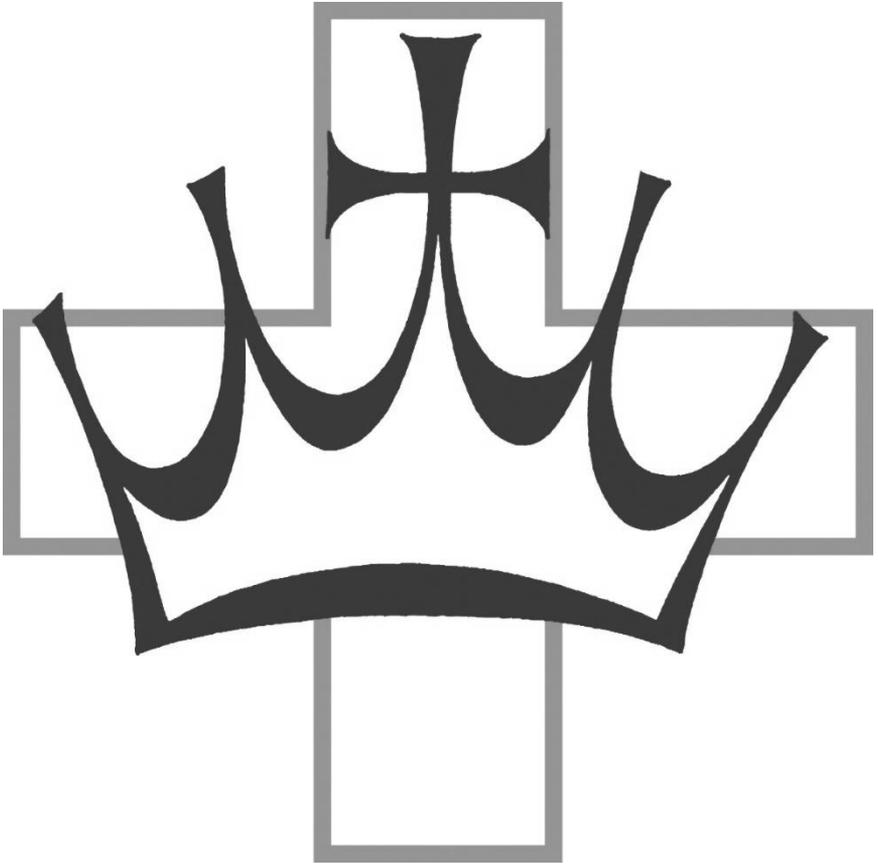


The Lutheran Church of the Savior

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



Order of Worship

November 23, 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 134; antiphon: Psalm 33:8

Let all the earth fear the LORD;

let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!

Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD,

who stand by night in the house of the LORD!

Lift up your hands to the holy place

and bless the LORD!

May the LORD bless you from Zion,

he who made heaven and earth!

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.

Let all the earth fear the LORD;

let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!

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.

Last Sunday of the Church Year

Divine Service, Setting Three

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Hymn

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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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 46; antiphon: v. 7



A Together, we sing Psalm 46 responsively:

⁷The LORD of hosts is | with us;*
the God of Jacob is our | fortress.

¹God is our ref- | uge and strength,*
a very present help in | trouble.

²**Therefore we will not fear though the | earth gives way,*
though the mountains be moved into the heart | of the sea,**

³though its waters | roar and foam,*
though the mountains tremble at its | swelling.

⁴**There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,*
the holy habitation of the | Most High.**

⁵God is in the midst of her; she shall | not be moved;*
God will help her when | morning dawns.

⁶**The nations rage, the kingdoms | totter;*
he utters his voice, the | earth melts.**

⁷The LORD of hosts is | with us;*
the God of Jacob is our | fortress.

⁸**Come, behold the works | of the LORD,*
how he has brought desolations | on the earth.**

⁹He makes wars cease to the end | of the earth;*
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots | with fire.

¹⁰**“Be still, and know that | I am God.*
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted | in the earth!”**

¹¹The LORD of hosts is | with us;*
the God of Jacob is our | fortress.

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.**

⁷The LORD of hosts is | with us;*
the God of Jacob is our | fortress.

Kyrie

LSB 186



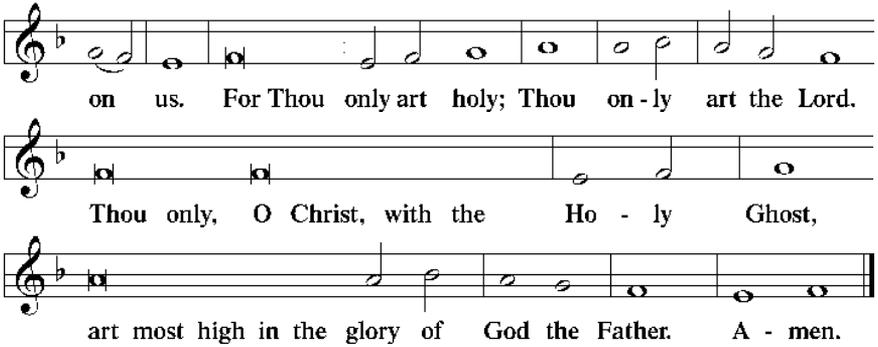
Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187



Glory be to God on high: 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.

Lord Jesus Christ, You reign among us by the preaching of Your cross. Forgive Your people their offenses that we, being governed by Your bountiful goodness, may enter at last into Your eternal paradise; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Malachi 3:13-18

¹³"Your words have been hard against me, says the LORD. But you say, 'How have we spoken against you?' ¹⁴You have said, 'It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts? ¹⁵And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.'"

¹⁶Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name. ¹⁷"They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. ¹⁸Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Choir

"I Will Give Jubilant Thanks"

Williams, Barrett

Epistle

Colossians 1:13–20

¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preminent. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

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

Luke 23:27-43

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-third chapter.



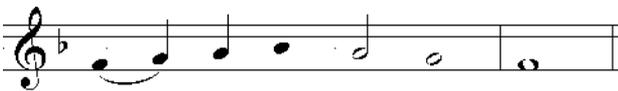
G Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

²⁷And there followed [Jesus] a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. ²⁸But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' ³⁰Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' ³¹For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

³²Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" ³⁶The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

³⁹One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." ⁴³And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

**☩ 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.**



Hymn of the Day

Lord, Enthroned in Heavenly Splendor

LSB 534



1 Lord, en - throned in heav'n - ly splen - dor, First - be - got - ten
2 Though the low - licst form now veil You As of old in
3 Pas - chal Lamb, Your of - f'ring, fin - ished Once for all when
4 Life - im - part - ing heav'n - ly man - na, Strick - en rock with



from the dead, You a - lone, our strong de - fend - er,
Beth - le - hem, Here as there Your an - gels hail You,
You were slain, In its full - ness un - di - min - ished
stream - ing side, Heav'n and earth with loud ho - san - na



Lift - ing up Your peo - ple's head, Al - le - lu - ia,
Branch and flow'r of Jes - se's stem, Al - le - lu - ia,
Shall for - ev - er - more re - main, Al - le - lu - ia,
Wor - ship You, the Lamb who died, Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus, true and
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! We in wor - ship
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Cleans - ing souls from
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Ris'n, as - cend - ed,



liv - ing bread! Je - sus, true and liv - ing bread!
join with them; We in wor - ship join with them.
ev - 'ry stain; Cleans - ing souls from ev - 'ry stain.
glo - ri - fied! Ris'n, as - cend - ed, glo - ri - fied!

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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:

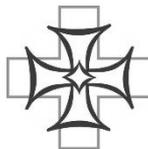
C **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**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.**



Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

LSB 621



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence And with fear and
2 King of kings yet born of Mar - y, As of old on
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van - guard
4 At His feet the six - winged ser - aph, Cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
earth He stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,
on the way As the Light of Light, de - scend - ing
sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence



For with bless - ing in His hand Christ our God to earth de -
In the bod - y and the blood, He will give to all the
From the realms of end - less day, Comes the pow'rs of hell to
As with cease-less voice they cry: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



scend - ing Comes our hom - age to de - mand.
faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.
van - quish As the dark - ness clears a - way.
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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Resources for Meditation this Week

LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

23 November 2025

Readings

Malachi 3:13–18

Colossians 1:13–20

Luke 23:27–43

Jesus Christ Reigns, Enduring the Cross — Its Scorn and Shame

The Lord Jesus reigns in love among those who are baptized in His name. *"They shall be mine,"* He says, *"and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him"* (Mal. 3:17). Jesus' service through crucifixion for sinful men anchors us in new life. In the proclamation of His Son, God makes His justice clear, defining *"the distinction between the righteous and the wicked"* (Mal. 3:18). He truly is *"the King of the Jews"* (Luke 23:38), who governs His Church with all authority in heaven and on earth. He has come into His kingdom by His cross, and He graciously remembers us in paradise. Therefore, do not weep for Him, but with repentant faith *"weep for yourselves and for your children"* (Luke 23:28). Then the mountains and hills of Jerusalem, His holy Church, shall cover you with His righteousness and peace. For He *"is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation"* (Col. 1:15). *"All things were created through him and for him"* (Col. 1:16), and *"all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell"* bodily in Him, reconciling all things to Himself *"by the blood of his cross"* (Col. 1:19–20).



Readings

Isaiah 2:1–5

Romans 13:(8–10) 11–14

Matthew 21:1–11 or Matthew 24:36–44

The Lord Comes in Meekness and Humility to Save Us Now

The Lord Jesus enters Jerusalem *“humble, and mounted on a donkey,”* riding on *“a beast of burden”* (Matt. 21:5), as He Himself bears the sins of the world in His body. Now He comes by the ministry of the Gospel to save us from sin, death, the devil and hell. Therefore, we sing, *“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”* (Matt. 21:9). For we are called *“to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob,”* His Holy Church, *“that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths”* (Is. 2:3). By His Word, we *“walk in the light of the LORD”* (Is. 2:5). That is to live in love, which *“does no wrong to a neighbor”* (Rom. 13:10). We *“cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light,”* for *“salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed”* (Rom. 13:11, 12). Hence, the entire Christian life is a time to wake and watch, *“for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming”* (Matt. 24:42).

