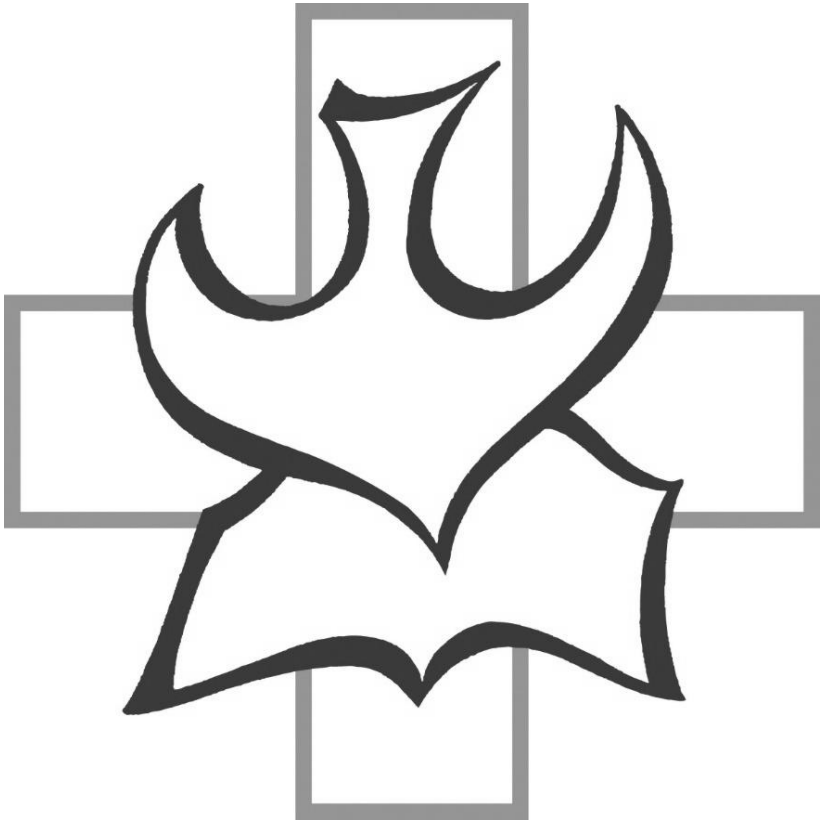


The Lutheran Church of the Savior

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



Order of Worship

September 6, 2026 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

Introit

Psalm 92:1-4; antiphon: v. 5

How great are your works, O LORD!

Your thoughts are very deep!

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.

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.

How great are your works, O LORD!

Your thoughts are very deep!

Communion Theology and Practice

Please see our statement of Communion Theology and Practice
on the back page of the worship bulletin.

*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.

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Divine Service

Welcome

Stand

Song

Hope of the Nations

Doerksen

Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Bridge, Chorus, Tag

(4)

Je - sus, hope of the na - tions.____

Je - sus, com - fort for all ____ who mourn. ____ You are

____ the source ____ of heav - en's hope ____ on earth. ____

Je - sus, light in the dark - ness. ____ Je - sus

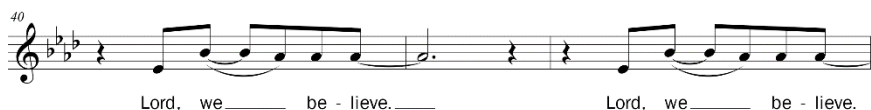
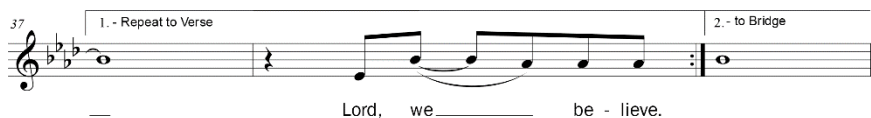
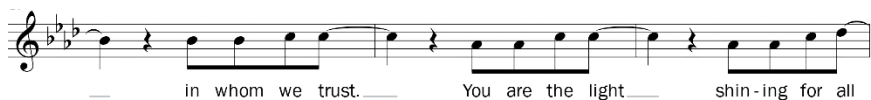
truth in each cir - cum - stance. ____ You are ____ the source of heav -

- en's light ____ on earth. ____ In his - to - ry ____ You lived

____ and died. ____ You broke ____ the chains. ____ You rose ____ to life. ____

____ You are the hope ____ liv - ing in us. ____ You are the Rock

continued on next page



62



Je-sus, our hope liv-ing for all who will re-ceive.

66



Lord, we be-lieve. Lord, we be-lieve.

70



Lord, we be-lieve. Lord, we be-lieve.

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 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

Song

You Forgave Me

Goodgame

The Congregation joins on the Chorus

Psalm 32:1-4a, 5 (NLT)

Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight! Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty! When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long. Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the Lord."

[Chorus x5] And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.

Service of the Word

Psalm

Psalm 32:1-7

A Together, we speak Psalm 32 responsively:

¹Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

²**Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

³For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

⁴**For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

⁵I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

**⁶Therefore let everyone who is godly
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;
surely in the rush of great waters,
they shall not reach him.**

**⁷You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

**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.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 33:7–9

⁷"So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 13:1–10

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:1–20

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ²And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

⁷"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

¹⁰"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹¹For the Son of Man came to save the lost. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

¹⁵"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, 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.**

Song

He Will Come and Save You

Fitts, Sadler

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

"Say to those who have an anxious heart, 'Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.'" Isaiah 35:4

VERSE



1. Say to those who are fear - ful - heart - ed, —
 2. Say to those who are bro - ken heart - ed, —

"do not be a - fraid; — The Lord, your God, is strong —
 "do not lose your faith; — The Lord, your God, is strong —

— with His might - y arm, — when you call on His name."
 — with His lov - ing arms, — when you call on His name."

He will come and save. — He will come and
 He will come and save. — He will come and



CHORUS



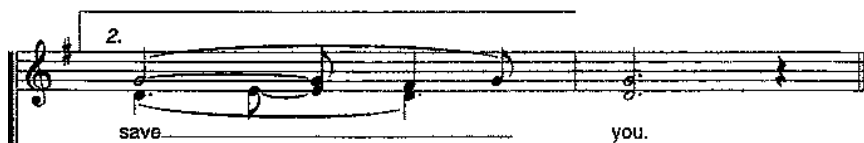
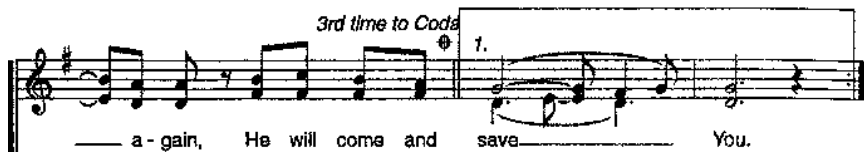
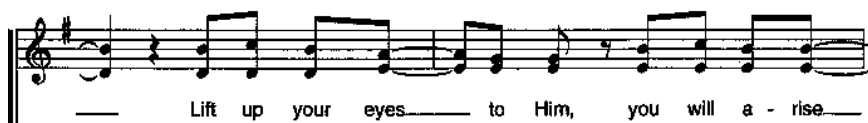
save — you, — He will come and save — you; —

— Say to the wea - ry one, "your God will sure -

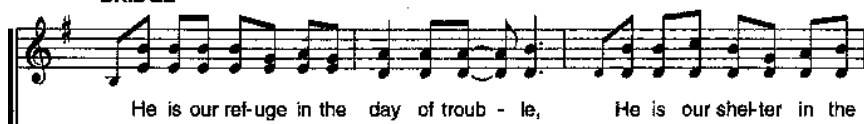
ly come," He will come and save — you. He will come and

save — you, — He will come and save — you; —

continued on next page



BRIDGE



♢ Coda

Fine



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.

The response after each petition is as follows:

L Lord, in your mercy:

C Hear our prayer.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

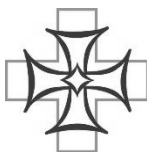
C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

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

Our God Saves

Baloche, Brown

Verse 1, Verse 2, Chorus, Verse 2, Chorus 2, Instrumental, Verse 2B, Chorus 2

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The score is divided into sections: Verse 1 (measures 3-12), Verse 2 (measures 13-20), and Chorus (measures 21-22). The lyrics are: 'In the Name of the Fa - ther, in the Name of the Son, in the Name of the Spir - it, Lord, we come; We're gath - er'd to - geth - er to lift up Your Name to call on our Sav - ior, to fall on Your grace. In the Name of the - grace; Hear the joy - ful sound of our of - fer - ing as Your saints bow down as Your peo - ple sing; We will rise with You, lift - ed on Your wings, and the world will see that Our God saves, our God saves;'. The score includes measure numbers 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, and 21. There are also measure rests and repeat signs.

In the Name of the

3 VERSE

Fa - ther, in the Name of the Son, in the Name of the

5 Spir - it, Lord, we come; We're gath - er'd to -

7 geth - er to lift up Your Name to call on our

9 Sav - ior, to fall on Your grace.

11 In the Name of the -

13 2.3 grace; Hear the joy - ful sound of our

15 of - fer - ing as Your saints bow down as Your

17 peo - ple sing; We will rise with You, lift - ed

19 on Your wings, and the world will see that

21 CHORUS

Our God saves, our God saves;

25 There is hope in Your Name. In the Name of the

30 Name; Mourning turns to songs of praise;

35 Our God saves, our God saves. Hear the

41 CODA Our God saves; Our God saves; Our God saves. Our God saves.

To Coda [10] *D.S. al Coda*

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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“Hope of the Nations” - words and music by Brian Doerksen

CCLI Song # 3540703

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“You Forgave Me” (Psalm 32:1-4a, 5) words and music by Randall Goodgame

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“Our God Saves” - words and music by Brenton Brown, Paul Baloche

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Resources for Meditation this Week

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

6 September 2026

Readings

Ezekiel 33:7–9

Romans 13:1–10

Matthew 18:1–20

Living as Humble Little Children of the Father

True greatness is not self-sufficient strength, but humility like that of a little child. The greatness of childlike faith receives all good things as gracious gifts from our Father in heaven. Apart from such faith, *"you will never enter the kingdom of heaven,"* but whoever is humbled like a little child will be *"the greatest in the kingdom of heaven"* (Matt. 18:3–4). Though in our sin we deserve to be *"drowned in the depth of the sea"* (Matt. 18:6), we have instead been drowned ("buried") with Christ in Baptism and then raised to the new, humble life of a child of God. The Lord sends His watchman to warn us with a word from His mouth, in order that we may not die in our iniquity but be turned from our pride and selfishness to live (Ezek. 33:7–9). Thus, we live in humility and faith before God as well as in love for our neighbor, which *"is the fulfilling of the law"* (Rom. 13:10). In the reverent fear of God, we do no harm to our neighbor, but we *"pay to all what is owed to them"* (Rom. 13:7) and we *"owe no one anything, except to love each other"* (Rom. 13:8).



Readings

Genesis 50:15–21

Romans 14:1–12

Matthew 18:21–35

Forgiving as the Lord Forgives Us

In settling His accounts with us, our Lord acts not with anger, but with compassion. He does not imprison us as we deserve, but He forgives all our debts and releases us (Matt. 18:23–27). Therefore, our Lord bids each of us to have *"mercy on your fellow servant"* and *"forgive your brother from your heart"* (Matt. 18:33, 35). By the Lord's forgiveness of our sins, we are free to forgive those who sin against us, because He has been handed over to the jailers in our stead and He has paid our entire debt with His lifeblood. Whether we live or die, we *"are the Lord's"* (Rom. 14:8). Since we all will *"stand before the judgment seat of God,"* we are not to despise our brother (Rom. 14:10), but gladly forgive him. By the grace of God, our brother also *"will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand"* (Rom. 14:4). Though we daily sin against each other, the Lord intends *"to bring it about that many people should be kept alive"* (Gen. 50:20). Jesus speaks kindly by His Gospel and promises: *"I will provide for you and your little ones"* (Gen. 50:21).



Communion Theology and Practice

Welcome! In Holy Communion, our Lord invites us to eat and drink His true Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life (Matthew 26:26-28). In preparation for this sacrament, each communicant should examine him or herself and come to the Lord's Table seeking these things. As the Small Catechism teaches, "a person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.'" We likewise take seriously St. Paul's admonition in 1 Corinthians 11:27-30 regarding recognizing the Lord's Body and Blood in this sacrament and receiving it worthily. We also believe that Holy Communion is a profession of confessional unity in which all who commune at the Lord's Table are united in their confession and faith (1 Corinthians 11:26).

Therefore, we practice what is often called "closed communion," in which we invite those Christians who have been baptized and instructed in the Christian faith, who share in the same confession of faith as the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and who believe that Jesus offers here His true Body and Blood, in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine, for the strengthening of their bodies and souls, cleansing them of their old nature and giving them new life, to join us at His table.

If you are new here, have not been baptized, or have not received instruction with regard to the teachings of the Lutheran Church regarding the Lord's Supper, have doubts about the nature of the sacrament, or have questions, please introduce yourself to our pastor before the service. He will be happy to discuss these things with you and help determine whether or not you should commune. If you do not wish to commune, have not been baptized, or have not been instructed in the Christian faith, we invite you to come receive a blessing. When you come to the altar, please come forward with your arms crossed to indicate that you would like the pastor to bless you. If you would like to learn more about the Christian faith or wish to be baptized, please speak to our pastor!