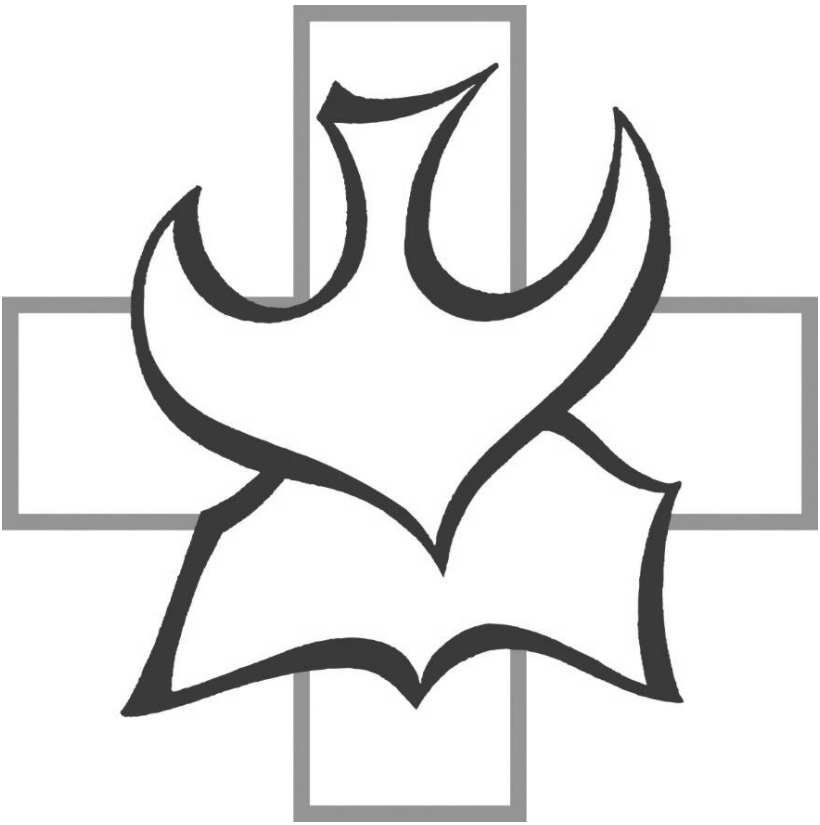
The Lutheran Church of the Savior

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



Order of Worship

November 15, 2026 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 143:2, 5–6, 10–11; antiphon: v. 1*

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!
In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!
Enter not into judgment with your servant,
for no one living is righteous before you.
I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done;
I ponder the work of your hands.
I stretch out my hands to you;
my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.
Teach me to do your will, for you are my God!
Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!
For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life!
In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!
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.
Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!
In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

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.

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Divine Service

Welcome

Stand

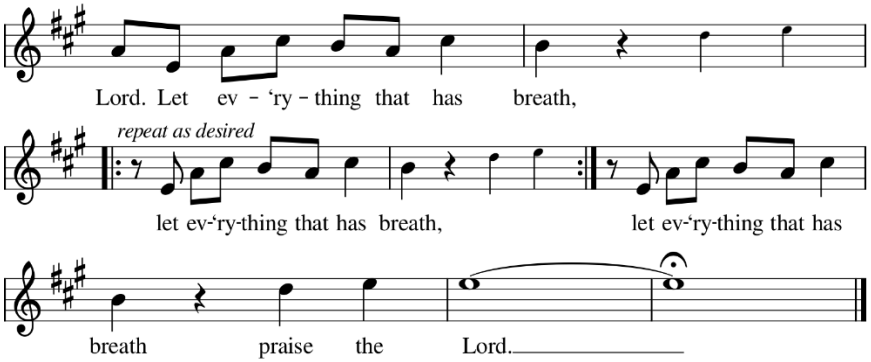
Song Let Everything That Has Breath *Gomez*

Chorus 1, Verse 1, Chorus 2, Verse 2, Final Chorus



continued on next page


name that stands a - bove all names is Je - sus.
CHORUS
Let ev - 'ry - thing that has breath praise the Lord,
and let the liv-ing pro-claim; Let ev-'ry-thing that has
breath praise the Lord.
High sound-ing cym-bals and trum-pets of brass,
the sound of one ac-cord; Let ev-'ry-thing that has
breath praise the Lord.
VERSE 2
My
Lord has put a new song in my heart; It's a
song of praise to my God, and ev - 'ry - one who hears
it will re - joice.
CHORUS
Let ev-'ry-thing that has
breath praise the Lord, and let the liv-ing pro-claim;
Let ev - 'ry - thing that has breath praise the



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.**

℗ 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 – repeated] And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone.

Service of the Word

Psalm *Psalm 90:1–12*

𝔸 Together, we speak Psalm 90 responsively:

[1]Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.
**[2]Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

[3]You return man to dust
and say, "Return, O children of man!"
**[4]For a thousand years in your sight
are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.**

[5]You sweep them away as with a flood;
they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning:
[6]in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.

[7]For we are brought to an end by your anger;
by your wrath we are dismayed.
[8]You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.

[9]For all our days pass away under your wrath;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
[10]The years of our life are seventy,
or even by reason of strength eighty;
yet their span is but toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.
[11]Who considers the power of your anger,
and your wrath according to the fear of you?

[12]So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.

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.
Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading *Zephaniah 1:7–16*

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD!
For the day of the LORD is near;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice
and consecrated his guests.
8 And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice—
"I will punish the officials and the king's sons
and all who array themselves in foreign attire.
9 On that day I will punish
everyone who leaps over the threshold,
and those who fill their master's house
with violence and fraud.
10 "On that day," declares the LORD,
"a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate,
a wail from the Second Quarter,
a loud crash from the hills.
11 Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!
For all the traders are no more;
all who weigh out silver are cut off.
12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the men
who are complacent,
those who say in their hearts,
'The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do ill.'
13 Their goods shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them."
14 The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the mighty man cries aloud there.
15 A day of wrath is that day,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,

a day of clouds and thick darkness,
[16]a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

[1]Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. [2]For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3]While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. [4]But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. [5]For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. [6]So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. [7]For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. [8]But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9]For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10]who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. [11]Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**



Stand

Holy Gospel *Matthew 25:14–30*

℗ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

℃ **Glory to You, O Lord.**

14[Jesus said:] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called
his servants and entrusted to them his property. 15To one he gave five
talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability.
Then he went away. 16He who had received the five talents went at once
and traded with them, and he made five talents more. 17So also he who
had the two talents made two talents more. 18But he who had received
the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.
19Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled
accounts with them. 20And he who had received the five talents came
forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me
five talents; here I have made five talents more.' 21His master said to him,
'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little;
I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 22And he also
who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to
me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' 23His master said to
him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over
a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 24He
also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I
knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and
gathering where you scattered no seed, 25so I was afraid, and I went and
hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26But his
master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I
reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed?
27Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at
my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. 28So
take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 29For
to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance.
But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.
30And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place
there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

℗ This is the Gospel of the Lord.

℃ **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.

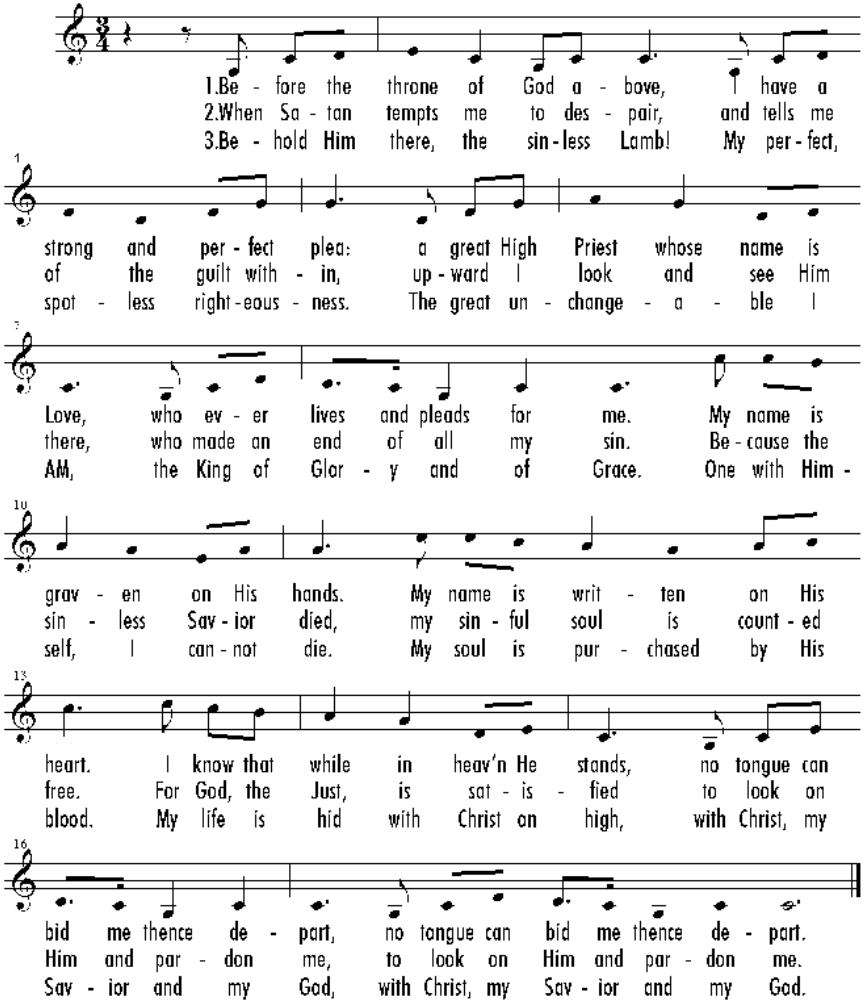
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
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 ✢ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Song Before The Throne *Bancroft, Cook*

Verse 1, Verse 2, Instrumental, Verse 3



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

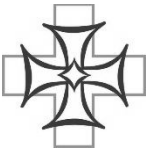
P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**



Sit

Song Your Mercy Goes Much Deeper *LeBlanc, Cooley*



Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Resources for Meditation this Week

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST *15 November 2026*

Readings
Zephaniah 1:7–16
1 Thessalonians 5:1–11
Matthew 25:14–30

God's Gift of Forgiveness Engenders Our Forgiveness of Others

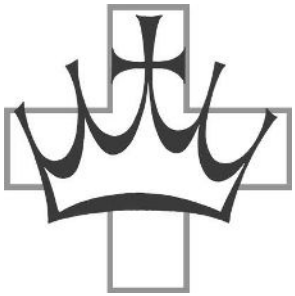
The Day of the Lord is *"near and hastening fast,"* and it will be *"a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation"* (Zeph. 1:14, 15). The Lord will search out and punish *"the men who are complacent"* concerning His Word, *"who fill their master's house with violence and fraud"* (Zeph. 1:9, 12). Then all their works and efforts will be for nothing: *"Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them"* (Zeph. 1:13). But those who fear, love and trust in the Lord are *"good and faithful"* stewards of His property (Matt. 25:21). They live by faith in His free gift of forgiveness, and they multiply His goods in the loving forgiveness of their neighbor, and *"the master of those servants"* settles His accounts with them by the gracious reckoning of His Gospel (Matt. 25:19). Likewise, *"God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ"* (1 Thess. 5:9). Therefore, let us also *"put on the breastplate of faith and love"* in our dealings with one another (1 Thess. 5:8).

LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR *22 November 2026*

Readings
Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24
1 Corinthians 15:20–28
Matthew 25:31–46

By the Cross of Christ, We Enter the Kingdom of Our God and Father

When the crucified and risen Lord Jesus comes to judge the living and the dead, *"he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats"* (Matt. 25:32). *"To those on his right,"* who have been crucified and raised with Him through repentance and faith in His Gospel, He will grant the blessed kingdom of His Father (Matt. 25:34). Having been justified by His grace, they live unto righteousness in Him (Matt. 25:35–40). But *"those on his left,"* who trust in themselves and despise their neighbor, will depart *"into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels"* (Matt. 25:41). Until that day, the Lord searches for His sheep *"as a shepherd seeks out his flock"* (Ezek. 34:11–12). Through His preaching of repentance, He disciplines the proud sheep and goats, *"the fat and the strong,"* but through the preaching of forgiveness He rescues the lost, binds up the injured, strengthens the weak and feeds *"the lean sheep"* (Ezek. 34:16, 20). In this way, He destroys the power of death in the children of Adam by His cross, so that *"in Christ shall all be made alive"* by His resurrection (1 Cor. 15:20–26).



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!