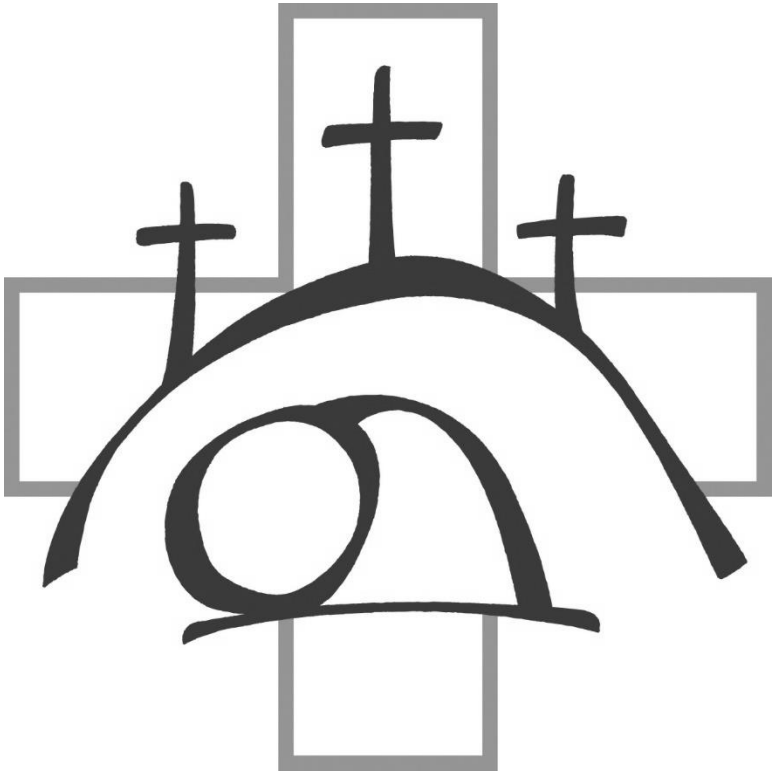


# The Lutheran Church of the Savior

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



I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever. For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol. *Psalm 86:12–13*

## Order of Worship

*July 23, 2023 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>

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## Introit

*Psalm 86:6, 11–15*

Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;

listen to my plea for grace.

Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth;

unite my heart to fear your name.

I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,

and I will glorify your name forever.

For great is your steadfast love toward me;

you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men seek my life,

and they do not set you before them.

But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

## 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.*

# Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Divine Service, Setting Four

Welcome

Opening Hymn

**Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good**

LSB 819



1 Sing praise to God, the high - est good, The au - thor of cre -  
2 What God's al - might - y pow'r has made, In mer - cy He is  
3 We sought the Lord in our dis - tress; O God, in mer - cy  
4 He nev - er shall for - sake His flock, His cho - sen gen - er -  
5 All who con - fess Christ's ho - ly name, Give God the praise and



a - tion, The God of love who un - der - stood  
keep - ing, By morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade  
hear us. Our Sav - ior saw our help - less - ness  
a - tion; He is their ref - uge and their rock,  
glo - ry. Let all who know His pow'r pro - claim



Our need for His sal - va - tion. With heal - ing balm our  
His eye is nev - er sleep - ing, With - in the king - dom  
And came with peace to cheer us. For this we thank and  
Their peace and their sal - va - tion. As with a moth - er's  
A - loud the won - drous sto - ry. Cast ev - 'ry i - dol



souls He fills And ev - 'ry faith - less mur - mur stills:  
of His might All things are just and good and right:  
praise the Lord, Who is by one and all a - dored:  
ten - der hand, He leads His own, His cho - sen band:  
from its throne, For God is God, and He a - lone:



To God all praise and glo - ry!  
To God all praise and glo - ry!  
To God all praise and glo - ry!  
To God all praise and glo - ry!  
To God all praise and glo - ry!

## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** **Amen.**

## Confession and Absolution

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

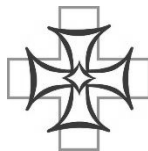
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
**C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

- P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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.**



# Service of the Word

## Psalm

*Psalm 119:57-64*

*Spoken responsively*

<sup>57</sup>The LORD is my portion;  
I promise to keep your words.

**<sup>58</sup>I entreat your favor with all my heart;  
be gracious to me according to your promise.**

<sup>59</sup>When I think on my ways,  
I turn my feet to your testimonies;

**<sup>60</sup>I hasten and do not delay  
to keep your commandments.**

<sup>61</sup>Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me,  
I do not forget your law.

**<sup>62</sup>At midnight I rise to praise you,  
because of your just and righteous decrees.**

<sup>63</sup>I am a companion of all who fear you,  
of those who keep your precepts.

**<sup>64</sup>The earth, O LORD, is full of your steadfast love;  
teach me your statutes!**

**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.**

## Kyrie

*LSB 204*



**☐** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.



## Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 204



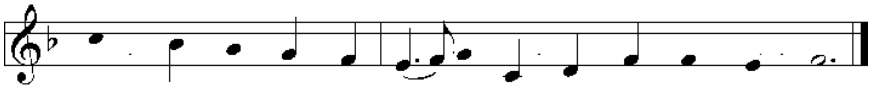
- C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.



## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 44:6–8*

<sup>6</sup>Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel  
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:  
"I am the first and I am the last;  
besides me there is no god.  
<sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let him proclaim it.  
Let him declare and set it before me,  
since I appointed an ancient people.  
Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.  
<sup>8</sup>Fear not, nor be afraid;  
have I not told you from of old and declared it?  
And you are my witnesses!  
Is there a God besides me?  
There is no Rock; I know not any."

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

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

## Epistle

*Romans 8:18–27*

<sup>18</sup>For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup>For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup>And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

<sup>26</sup>Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

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

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

## Alleluia and Verse

LSB 205



**G** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



**G** These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



**G** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43*

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

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

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, <sup>25</sup>but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. <sup>27</sup>And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' <sup>28</sup>He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' <sup>29</sup>But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" . . .

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."

<sup>37</sup>He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.

<sup>38</sup>The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the



reapers are angels. <sup>40</sup>Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, <sup>42</sup>and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

LSB 206

**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.**

# Hymn of the Day

## Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

LSB 700



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of  
2 Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to  
3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; Let us  
4 Fin - ish then Thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and



heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us Thy  
ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; Let us all in  
all Thy life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re -  
spot - less let us be; Let us see Thy



hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown,  
Thee in - her - it; Let us find Thy prom - ised rest.  
turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.  
great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee,



Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un -  
Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha  
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee  
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in



bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with  
and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as  
as Thy hosts a - bove, Pray and praise Thee  
heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our



Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart,  
its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty,  
with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love,  
crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise!

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## Sermon

Matthew 13:44-52

## Prayer of the Church

- P** Redeemer and Lord of hosts, the future is in Your hands. Remove all fear from us, and keep us mindful that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed in us.

*Response after each petition*

- P** Lord, in your mercy,  
**C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** Lord God, You have called us according to Your purpose. You cause all things to work together for our good. Keep us safe until that day when You gather us with the saints into Your kingdom, which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

- P** Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## Lord's Prayer

*LSB 209*

- 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.**

# O Lord, We Praise Thee

LSB 617



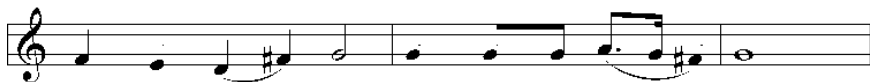
1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and a - dore Thee,  
2 Thy ho - ly bod - y in - to death was giv - en,  
3 May God be - stow on us His grace and fa - vor



In thanks - giv - ing bow be - fore Thee. Thou with Thy  
Life to win for us in heav - en. No great - er  
That we fol - low Christ our Sav - ior And live to -



bod - y and Thy blood didst nour - ish Our weak souls that  
love than this to Thee could bind us; May this feast there -  
geth - er here in love and u - nion Nor de - spise this



they may flour - ish: O Lord, have mer - cy!  
of re - mind us! O Lord, have mer - cy!  
blest Com - mu - nion! O Lord, have mer - cy!



May Thy bod - y, Lord, born of Mar - y, That our  
Lord, Thy kind - ness did so con - strain Thee That Thy  
Let not Thy good Spir - it for - sake us; Grant that



sins and sor - rows did car - ry, And Thy blood for us plead  
blood should bless and sus - tain me. All our debt Thou hast paid;  
heav'n - ly - mind - ed He make us; Give Thy Church, Lord, to see



In all tri - al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer - cy!  
Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mer - cy!  
Days of peace and u - ni - ty: O Lord, have mer - cy!

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**Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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# Resources for Meditation this Week

## EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

23 July 2023

### Readings

Isaiah 44:6–8

Romans 8:18–27

Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

### ***The Word of the Gospel Bestows the Righteousness of Christ and Brings Forth Faith***

The good Seed, which is *“the Son of Man,”* Jesus Himself (Matt. 13:37), brings forth a harvest of faith and bears good fruits in *“the sons of the kingdom”* (Matt. 13:38). Whatever is sown apart from His Word is of the devil, who plants the weeds of unbelief and sin, even among the people of God. Thankfully, the Lord is patient and He does not uproot the weeds, lest the plants also be destroyed. He lets *“both grow together until the harvest”* (Matt. 13:30), while He continues to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins. Thus, He preserves His Church in righteousness, because He alone is *“the King of Israel and his Redeemer”* (Is. 44:6). Since all things are in His gracious care and keeping, *“fear not, nor be afraid”* (Is. 44:8). For *“the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God”* (Rom. 8:19), and in this hope we also wait with patience. Though we do not yet see it, *“the Spirit helps us in our weakness”* (Rom. 8:26) and, in truth, *“the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us”* (Rom. 8:18).



**Readings**

Deuteronomy 7:6–9

Romans 8:28–39

Matthew 13:44–52

***The Son of God Has Redeemed Us for Himself with His Holy and Precious Blood***

The Lord our God has chosen us to be *"his treasured possession,"* not because of any strength in us, but solely *"because the LORD loves"* us (Deut. 7:6–8). He is faithful, and He *"keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments"* (Deut. 7:9). He has searched for us and found us in love, and He has bestowed on us *"great value"* by the great price that He has paid on the cross (Matt. 13:45–46). In His joy, He has redeemed us by His cross and gathered us into His kingdom by the Gospel. Now we are *"hidden in a field,"* covered by the cross and subject to the persecution of the world (Matt. 13:44), not for destruction, but *"to be conformed to the image of his Son"* (Rom. 8:29). Since we *"are called according to his purpose"* (Rom. 8:28), and because Christ Jesus died, rose again and lives to intercede for us *"at the right hand of God"* (Rom. 8:34), there is nothing in all creation that can separate us from *"the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Rom. 8:39).

