

Blessed Savior Lutheran Church

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Pastor Tony Troup (618-340-8375), Vacancy Pastor
Pastor Perry Schefelker (618-322-7498), Vacancy Pastor
Cheryl Vohlken, Organist
Worship –9:30 am

THE 11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 24, 2025

AS WE GATHER

The word *discipline* is derived from the Latin word *discipulus*, which means “learner.” One of the most interesting documents found among the Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered at Qumran in the Holy Land in 1947, is called *The Manual of Discipline*. It outlined the expectations for new members joining the Essene sect of Jewish men at the time of Jesus. As part of their community’s discipline, they were to have evidence in their lives of faithfulness to God, to show justice toward all people, and to love truth and hate falsehood. Their behavior was to reflect that discipline whatever age they were. As our God’s beloved sons and daughters, we are under His loving discipline. May we continue that blessed learning through all the seasons of our lives!



WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN NO #901

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

Open now thy gates of beauty; Zion, let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty Waits for Him who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place, Filled with solace, light, and grace!

Gracious God, I come before Thee; Come Thou also unto me.
Where we find Thee and adore Thee, There a heav’n on earth must be.
To my heart, O enter Thou; Let it be Thy temple now!

Here Thy praise is gladly chanted; Here Thy seed is duly sown.
Let my soul, where it is planted, Bring forth precious sheaves alone,
So that all I hear may be Fruitful unto life in me.

Thou my faith increase and quicken; Let me keep Thy gift divine,
How so e’er temptations thicken; May Thy Word still o’er me shine
As my guiding star through life, As my comfort in all strife.

Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee; Let Thy will be done indeed.
May I undisturbed draw near Thee While Thou dost Thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows; Here is balm for all our woes.

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES Psalm 46:1; 50:1

P: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

C: **Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.**

P: As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him.

C: **The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

P: Bless the LORD, all His hosts, His ministers, who do His will!

C: **Bless the LORD, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Invited by the grace of God, as His baptized children, we plead for His mercy confessing our sins.

C: **O merciful Father, hear our request for Your help for living in the strength of our Baptism into the death and resurrection of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. We lay our sins on His own atoning death. Raise us in the assurance of Your forgiveness, that we may serve You and sing Your praises both now and forever. Hear us for the sake of Jesus, our Lord and our eternal King. Amen.**

P: The almighty and merciful Lord give us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

O Lord, You have called us to enter Your kingdom through the narrow door. Guide us by Your Word and Spirit, and lead us now and always into the feast of Your Son, Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 66:18–23* (They shall see My glory.)

“For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands far away, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations. And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the LORD, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the LORD, just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD. And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the LORD.

**“For as the new heavens and the new earth
that I make
shall remain before me, says the LORD,
so shall your offspring and your name remain.
From new moon to new moon,
and from Sabbath to Sabbath,
all flesh shall come to worship before me,
declares the LORD.**

L: This is the Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Hebrews 12:4-29* (A Kingdom that cannot be shaken)

In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.”

It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.” But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.”

This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE Hebrews 12:5-7 (Phyllis Miesner)

(Please rise for the Verse and Gospel Reading.)

VERSE **Luke 13:29**

L: Alleluia! The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

C: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 13:22–30* (The narrow door)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And he said to them, “Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’ In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ. *(Please be seated.)*

SERMON HYMN No. 771 “Be Still My Soul” (Tune: Dundee)

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; Much we need Your tender care.
In Your pleasant pastures feed us, For our use Your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have bought us; we are Yours.

We are Yours; in love befriend us, Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us, Seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear us children when we pray.

You have promised to receive us, Poor and sinful though we be;
You have mercy to relieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow’r to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to You.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to You.

Early let us seek Your favor, Early let us do Your will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, With Your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, You have loved us, love us still.

SERMON “Drooping Hands and Weak Knees,” Heb. 12:12 Pastor Perry

CONFESSION OF FAITH **THE APOSTLE’S CREED** *(Please stand.)*

People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended in hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING & OFFERTORY (*Please be seated.*)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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.

BLESSING OF THE LORD

P: The blessing of God—our Creator heavenly Father; His loving Son, our Savior and Leader; and our
counseling and comforting Holy Spirit—be with you, now and forever.

C: Amen

CLOSING HYMN **Video** **“On Eagle’s Wings”**
Michael Joncas (*Please rise.*)

SENDING

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

C: Thanks be to God!

