



Saron Lutheran Church

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Pastor Julie Brooks



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

24th Sunday after Pentecost | November 15, 2020 | 8:30 a.m.

While we cannot gather in person, we can dedicate this time and space together to pray, hear the Word of God and receive the gift of God's Presence. Today, we will be sharing the Lord's Supper/Holy Communion at your individual location. You are invited to have a piece of bread or cracker and a little wine or juice with you. Later in the service, the pastor will be giving thanks and saying the ancient words of Christ's promise to show up in these simple things. You will be invited to partake of them at that time.

Please check our website for regular updates during this time of dispersed worship. Offerings may be given online through "Tithe-ly" as linked on the website or by sending a check to our P.O. Box above. Thank you for your support of Saron and your community!

Welcome / Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through ✠ Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world. **Amen.**

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading | Zephaniah 1:7, 12–15

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
“The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm.”

¹³Their wealth 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.

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.

¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath,
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,

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading | 1 Thessalonians 5:1–3; 6–11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape!

⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ^{8b}put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel | Matthew 25:14–30

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And the one with the two talents ²²also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from

those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon | Pastor Julie Brooks

Hymn of the Day | ELW 749: **O God of Love, O King of Peace**

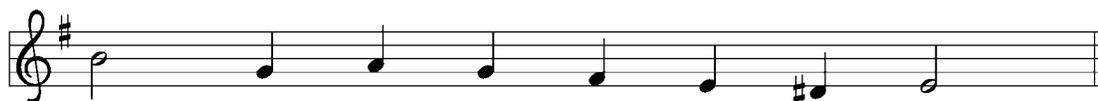
Elise Kasunick, pianist



1 O God of love, O King of peace, make wars through -
2 Re - mem - ber, Lord, your works of old, the won - ders
3 Whom shall we trust but you, O Lord? Where rest but
4 Where saints and an - gels dwell a - bove all hearts are



out the world to cease; our greed and sin - ful wrath re - strain.
that our el - ders told; re - mem - ber not our sins' deep stain.
on your faith - ful word? None ev - er called on you in vain.
knit in ho - ly love; oh, bind us in that heav'n - ly chain.



Give peace, O God, give peace a - gain.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877

Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

Prayers of Intercession

After each petition: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Offering Prayer

Our response to all that God has given us is a yearning to give. You are invited to collect an ongoing "noisy offering" for Cares Food Bank or make a contribution to your local food bank. Thank you also for your offerings that support the ministry of Saron Lutheran Church!

God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.
Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer/Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Holy Communion

Hear these words and partake of the bread/cracker and wine/juice: (If you are worshiping at home, you may repeat these words and give them each to another member of your household as well.)

The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. **Amen.**

Blessing

May the God of all creation,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved,
who strengthens us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!
The blessing of God,
Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.

Hymn | ELW 710: **Let Streams of Living Justice** | Elise Kasunick, pianist



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
dye our tex - ture with your ra - dian - ce, light our col - ors with your sun.
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934
Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934
Text © 1989 William Whitla.

Dismissal

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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Saron Lutheran Church – celebrating 108 years!

*Mission Statement: Saron Lutheran welcomes all in the name of Christ:
to know Christ's love | to grow in Christ's love | to go in Christ's love*