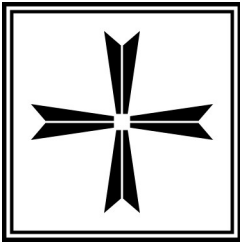


# THE CHURCH FORGIVES

*THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST*

*OCTOBER 5TH, 2014*



# OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

*BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA*

*OCTOBER 5TH, 2014 - SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST*

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

**W**elcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word. If you are a guest, please fill out a Connection card found in our entryway. You can place it in the offering plate or hand it to Pastor or an usher as you leave.

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

Sound / Music: Roger Benz

Ushers: Roger Benz, Bob Holbrook

Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz

Church Office: (205) 677-8642

Cell: (205) 478-6843

Email: [Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com](mailto:Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com)

## SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY



The Church forgives as God forgives.

Anytime we try to imitate God, we quickly realize our inadequacy. Yet today God tells us to model our forgiveness on his: a boundless, free, and loving forgiveness based on the sacrifice of Christ. How could our sinful hearts ever forgive like that? The Prayer of the Day asks that the mercy and grace of God precede us and follow after us, that we might love God with undivided hearts— hearts always ready to forgive as God does: sins are forgiven, forgotten, forever.

## BEFORE WORSHIP

As you prepare to worship your Lord today, spend a few quiet moments in prayer before the service. Review the lessons, the service notes, and pray this prayer:

Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## FOR FAMILIES

**Children's Activity Sheets** give activities and lessons pertaining to the Scripture lessons for the day. Ask an usher at the door into the sanctuary.

If your little one needs a moment, there is a speaker and window in our entryway that will allow you to see and hear the service.

**Children's Church** is a special place for younger children to hear a Bible story, sing some songs, learn a prayer, and do a craft. You can escort your child to our children's church just before the sermon as noted in the service folder.

## INFORMATION

**Bathrooms** are located at the end of the end of the hallway as you exit the sanctuary.

**Looking for more information?** If you would like to learn more about Our Savior Lutheran Church, check out our information table in the entryway, speak with Pastor Kratz after the service, send him an email at: [Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com](mailto:Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com), or call the church office at (205) 677-8642.

**Our Savior Lutheran Church** is a member of a group of more than twelve hundred churches called Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church body with congregations serving all fifty of the United States, as well as Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and over 25 countries through world mission work.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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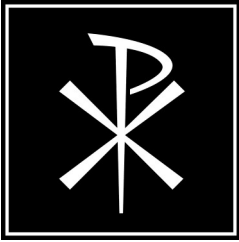
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# SERVICE OF THE WORD

OPENING HYMN

#234

*PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY*

*~PLEASE STAND*

## GREETING

**L**eader: The grace of our Lord (†) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C**ongregation: **And also with you.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS

*The use of the keys (the power to forgive sins) is that special power and right which Christ gave to his church on earth: to forgive the sins of penitent sinners (See John 20:21-23).*

**L** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C** **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

**L** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C** **Amen.**

# GLORY TO GOD ~ "GLORIA IN EXCELSIS"

**L** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

*Christians praise God by proclaiming the great things he has done to accomplish our rescue from sin. "Glory to God in the Highest" has been a Christian song of worship since the fourth century.*

Refrain

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Verses

1. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father.
2. We worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you, we praise you for your glory.
3. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive, receive our prayer.
4. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**L** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

*This greeting has deep roots in Christian worship.*

**L** Let us pray:

Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work. We pray this and all things through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

~PLEASE BE SEATED



# THE WORD

## FIRST LESSON

GENESIS 50:15-21 (PG. 85)

*Through his tears,  
Joseph never wavered,  
but calmed his  
brothers' fears, forgave  
them like God forgives,  
and set them free from  
their prison of the past.*

<sup>15</sup> When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" <sup>16</sup> So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: <sup>17</sup> 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

<sup>18</sup> His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

<sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. <sup>21</sup> So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.



# PSALM OF THE DAY

# PSALM 103

**L** Refrain.

**C** Refrain.

*The congregation is invited to join in singing the refrain after each of the verses.*

*The LORD is to be praised because he has not treated us as our sins deserve. He has provided cleansing for our souls and health for our bodies.*

Refrain



Verses

1. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all my being bless God's name; bless the Lord, and forget not God's benefits.
2. God pardons all your iniquities, and comforts your sorrows, redeems your life from destruction and crowns you with kindness.
3. Merciful, merciful, and gracious is our God; slow to anger, abounding in kindness.

Text: Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 8; para. by Marty Haugen, © 1983, GIA Publications, Inc.; refrain trans. © 1969, ICEL  
Music: Marty Haugen, © 1983, GIA Publications, Inc.

## SECOND LESSON

## EPHESIANS 4:29-5:2 (PG. 1822)

<sup>29</sup> Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

*The Church is comprised of people who have been sealed for redemption, so let's act like it! Not only kindness and compassion, but forgiveness is the primary mark of the Christian.*

**5** Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup> and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

ROMANS 15:4



**C Refrain. (sung twice)**

**L** Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

**C Refrain. (sung twice)**

## GOSPEL

MATTHEW 18:21-35 (PG. 1527)

*The congregation stands and speaks words of acclamation out of respect for the word of Christ, our King.*

*Jesus' parable contrasts the forgiveness of God and our own unforgiving nature.*

~PLEASE STAND

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"

<sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup> "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup> As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. <sup>25</sup> Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

<sup>26</sup> "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' <sup>27</sup> The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

<sup>28</sup> "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

<sup>29</sup> "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.'

<sup>30</sup> "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> When the other servants saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened.

<sup>32</sup> "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. <sup>33</sup> Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' <sup>34</sup> In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

<sup>35</sup> "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

*After the Gospel, the congregation responds:*

**C Praise be to you, O Christ!**

~PLEASE BE SEATED



## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Children are invited to assemble at the front for a children's message.*

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

*During the singing of the hymn, parents may choose to escort their young child(ren) to our children's church, where they will hear a Bible story, sing songs, learn a prayer, and do a craft.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

#493

*FORGIVE OUR SINS AS WE FORGIVE*

*The Hymn of the Day is assigned to this day because of its rich content and connection to the day's Gospel.*

## SERMON

GENESIS 50:15-21

## APOSTLES CREED

*~PLEASE STAND*

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

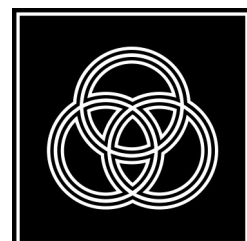
**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.**

*~PLEASE BE SEATED*

## OFFERING

*Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him.*



*Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word.*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*The Lord invites our prayers and asks that Christians pray for many people and circumstances.*

*~PLEASE STAND*

- L** O Lord, our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth.
- C** **We praise you for every grace and blessing.**
- L** Strengthen your Church in all the world. Let your comforting message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed to troubled souls everywhere.
- C** **Use our ministries and offerings to extend your healing and your hope.**
- L** We bring you our requests for the various structures of our society. Bless our national, state, and local governments.
- C** **Grant us civil servants who are worthy of honor and respect.**
- L** Grant prosperity to our businesses and industries. Give employers a sense of fairness toward their workers, and employees a feeling of joy and pride in their workmanship.
- C** **Help us find satisfaction in all work well done.**
- L** Invigorate the schools of our land. Give success to every effort that helps students read, think, and communicate in ways that will promote an informed and responsible citizenry. Arouse curious minds to discover the wonders of your created order.
- C** **Give us teachers and students who pursue excellence.**
- L** Strengthen the families of our country. Give fathers and mothers a renewed commitment to be good parents. Give children and young people the wisdom to regard their parents as your representatives.
- C** **Lead us to love one another as you have loved us.**  
*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*
- L** Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.  
*Silent prayer.*
- L** Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare.
- C** **Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

- 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.**

*~PLEASE BE SEATED*

*MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS*

## PRAYER

*~PLEASE STAND*

**L** Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**L** The Lord has refreshed us with His Word. Let us head into this new week equipped for lives of service.

**C** **Our mission is to worship God, to spread his Word to our community and to all nations, and to nurture all believers to prepare them for lives of Christian service.**

## BLESSING

**L** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

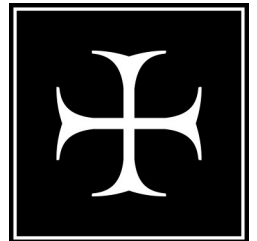
The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.

**C** **Amen.**

*~PLEASE BE SEATED*

## CLOSING HYMN

#393 vs. 1,2,5

*IF YOUR BELOVED SON, O GOD*

*The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them" (Numbers 6:27).*



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