



WHAT IS MARRIAGE EXACTLY?

October 7, 2018



Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. We are happy that you are here! 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.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

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

Children's Activity Sheets give activities and lessons pertaining to the Scripture lessons for today's service. 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. Children's Church is located in Room 3 and will be on your right as you exit the sanctuary.

Holy Communion will be celebrated as part of this morning's worship service. Here at Our Savior Lutheran Church, we practice "membership communion" and ask that only members come forward to receive the sacrament. On page 156 in the front of the hymnal, there is a "Personal Preparation for Holy Communion" you can use to prepare to receive Christ's true body and blood.

Free WIFI is available if you use an online Bible or Bible app on your phone or tablet. Look for the "OSLC_Guest" connection to get online!

Looking for more information? If you would like to learn more about Our Savior Lutheran Church, You can stay up to date and in the know by connecting with Our Savior online.



OurSaviorBirmingham.com | Video and audio sermons archives, calendar of events, and more!



[@OurSaviorBham](https://twitter.com/OurSaviorBham) | Daily Bible passage, weekly sermon videos, and upcoming events



[OurSaviorBham](https://www.facebook.com/OurSaviorBham) | Daily Bible passage, weekly video worship service previews, and upcoming events



[OurSaviorBham](https://www.instagram.com/OurSaviorBham) | Daily Bible passage, event pictures, and church pictures



[OurSaviorBham](https://www.youtube.com/OurSaviorBham) | Weekly sermon videos and worship service previews



Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com | Pastor Kratz's email

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 the United States, as well as Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and over 25 countries through world mission work.



TODAY'S WORSHIP

What is marriage exactly?

October 5, 2018

What do you do when you have to ask an embarrassing or awkward question, or a question you feel you should know the answer to? Why, you ask the question and simply say that you are “asking for a friend!” The next several weeks, we will follow Jesus as he journeys toward his work of saving us in Jerusalem. As he does, we will watch and listen and learn from our Savior the answer to questions we have or questions we’ve been asked. Questions like, “Is God good?” “Does God care?” and “Do I have to be humble?” Today, we look at families and answer the question: What is marriage exactly? In his Word, our God lovingly gives us not only the template for marriage and family, but how they work. The closest we can get to a mirror of the love of God for us is the mirror of the love that he wants us to have for one another in the family. The goal of family members, husbands and wives, parents and children, is to reflect the love of God for us in self giving love for one another in the family.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

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

Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Make us ready, with cheerful hearts, to do whatever pleases you; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Ushers: John Armstrong, Braden Keel

Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz

Church Office: (205) 677-8642

Cell: (205) 478-6843

Email: Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

~ **Cover Art** by GracewayMedia.com

~ **Artwork** by Ian M. Welch and Corissa Nelson. © 2012 Ian M. Welch. © 2017 Corissa Nelson. All Rights Reserved. (paramentics.com / corissanelsonart.com)

~ **Scripture** is taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION © NIV® ©1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-702194:

~ **Divine Service II**, © 2006 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

~ **Music settings** by Pastor Michael Schultz. © 2010 Michael Schultz. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

DIVINE SERVICE

HYMN | #257 *My Soul, Now Bless Your Maker*

INVOCATION

~Please stand

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.

For faithless worrying and selfish pride,

For sins of habit and sins of choice,

For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,

You should cast me away from your presence forever.

O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me for Jesus' sake.

Silence for personal confession and reflection

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Invocation: This comes from the latin "invoco" which describes the act of calling upon or asking for help or support. As we begin our worship, we call on the name of the triune God, who is our ever-present help and strength and in whose name we were baptized. The sign of the cross then reminds worshipers of their baptisms.

The Confession and Forgiveness 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.

LORD, HAVE MERCY | *Kyrie, eleison*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord

Lord, have mercy.

For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord of life, live in us that we may life for you.

Amen.

GLORY BE TO GOD | *Gloria in Excelsis*

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the
high-est and peace, peace, peace, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.
Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther. We wor-ship
you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est and
peace, peace, peace, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.

Lord, Have Mercy: “Kyrie” is the Greek word for “Lord.” The expression “Lord have mercy” is one of the oldest worship responses in the Christian church.

Hymn of Praise: Purified of our sin, we respond with a song of praise, based on the angel’s song at Jesus’ birth. “Glory to God in the Highest” has been a Christian song of worship since the fourth century.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the
 Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a -
 way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
 you are seat - ed at the right hand of God the Fa - ther: re -
rit.
 ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.
a tempo
 Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est and
 peace, peace, peace, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
 Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.
 Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est and
 peace, peace, peace, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

THE WORD

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Make us ready, with cheerful hearts, to do whatever pleases you; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

~Please be seated

The Word: We sit at the feet of Jesus, like Mary did, to hear the Word (Luke 10:42). Here is time for meditating, strengthening, forgiveness, instruction, and response.

Salutation: This greeting has deep roots in Christian worship and marks the beginning of the Word and the Sacrament sections of the service.

Prayer of the Day: Following an ancient outline, the prayer of the day asks for one specific blessing. This prayer changes each Sunday, according to the Bible readings for that Sunday.

FIRST READING | *Genesis 2:18-24 (pg. 4)*

Note how careful God is in his institution of marriage and how eager he is that husband and wife see each other as a special blessing from God. He does not give Adam a wife until Adam first recognizes his need for one. Then he takes the greatest care in providing for that need. It is even greater care than he employed when he created Adam in the first place. Then God himself, without consulting either Adam or Eve, regulates the marriage he himself has instituted in a way that will best serve the interests of the married and ultimately of the Church and society as well.

¹⁸The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

¹⁹Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.²⁰ So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found.²¹ So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and closed up the place with flesh.²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

²³The man said,

“This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called ‘woman,’
for she was taken out of man.”

²⁴For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY | *Psalm 127*

¹ Unless the LORD builds the house,
its builders labor in vain.

**Unless the LORD watches over the city,
the watchmen stand guard in vain.**

² In vain you rise early
and stay up late,
toiling for food to eat—

for he grants sleep to those he loves.

³ Sons are a heritage from the LORD,
children a reward from him.

⁴ **Like arrows in the hands of a warrior
are sons born in one's youth.**

⁵ Blessed is the man
whose quiver is full of them.

**They will not be put to shame
when they contend with their enemies in the gate.**



SECOND READING | *Ephesians 5:21-6:4 (pg. 1823)*

Christ himself sets the example in his marriage to us. He did everything he did not for his own benefit but for ours. We, as the bride of Christ, gladly submit to such a head, not least in the way we conduct ourselves in our family life. May the head of the family ever see it as his goal and role to do all for the benefit of those Christ has given him in his household, that the family may become a worthy reflection of the love of Christ for the Church and hers for him.

²¹Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²²Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— ³⁰for we are members of his body. ³¹“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ³²This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²“Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— ³“that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

⁴Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL | *Mark 10:2-16 (pg. 1570)*

~Please stand

The Gospel according to St. Mark, chapter 10.

Glory be to you, O Lord.

God takes marriage seriously. Each marriage should be seen by those in it as a most precious gift of God. To violate and destroy that gift is a crime of the first order that brings God's judgment on those who are responsible for breaking the mirror of his union with us in the Church. Such people do damage to their partner and to their children by hindering them in coming to the arms of Jesus by their bad example, by their destruction and despising of God's gift, and by clouding the mirror of the marriage between Christ and his Church.

²Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?"

³"What did Moses command you?" he replied.

⁴They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away."

⁵"It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law," Jesus replied. ⁶"But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' ⁷'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, ⁸and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

¹⁰When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. ¹¹He answered, "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. ¹²And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery."

¹³People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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.

Gospel: *The congregation stands for the reading of the Gospel. (In the past, soldiers put down their weapons and kings removed their crowns when the Gospel was read.) Christ—his life, his words of law and Gospel, his suffering and death, his resurrection, his ascension, his assignment to the Church, his promise to return—is the center of the Gospel. The faithful have waited for this moment, this reading. They stand in reverence. After hearing the Gospel, we respond with a joyful acclamation of praise.*

~Please stand

After the sermon, the congregation sings:

Cre - ate in me a pure heart, O God,
 and re - new a stead-fast spir - it with - in me.
 Do not cast me from your pres - ence or take your
 Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
 Re - store to me the joy, the joy of
 your sal - va - tion and grant me a will - ing
 spir - it to sus - tain me.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian* and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

~Please be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING

This is the moment in our worship when members and friends of Our Savior Lutheran respond to God's good news with gifts to support his saving work of sharing the Gospel. If you are a guest with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate.

If you would like to help Our Savior with this important mission, there are several ways to make a tax-deductible contribution (the latter two provide options for either one-time or recurring gifts):

Place your offering in the plate

Use the "Tithe.ly" app on your phone (iOS or Android)

Click on "Give" at OurSaviorBirmingham.com on your phone or computer

Confession of Faith: *Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word. Christian's composed the Nicene Creed in the fourth century to defend the Bible's teachings that both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are true God, equal to the Father in one eternal, undivided Trinity.*

**The original text here reads "catholic," a word meaning "universal." The Church consists of all believers in heaven and earth, of every time in history.*

Prayer of the Church: *The Lord invites our prayers and asks that Christians pray for many people and circumstances.*

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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

PREFACE

~Please stand

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is good and right so to do.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY | *Sanctus*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly

Lord, God of pow-er, God of might: heav - en and

earth are full of your glo - ry,

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord! Ho - san - na in the

Preface: The opening words of the communion liturgy mark the beginning of the Sacrament section of the service and lift the worshippers' hearts in praise. The opening sentences are among the oldest in the Christian liturgy.

Holy, Holy, Holy: "Sanctus" means "holy." Used possibly as early as the second century, this canticle was in wide use among Christians in worship by the fourteenth century. It incorporates elements of Isaiah 6:3 and Matthew 21:9.

high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

Amen.

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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving: Jesus took bread and "gave thanks." See Matthew 26:26

Lord's Prayer: The Lord's Prayer was given by our Savior to his Church in response to the disciples' request to be taught to pray. See Matthew 6:9-13. The conclusion to the prayer, also known as the Doxology, was a common conclusion to ancient prayers.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat, this is my (†) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD | *Agnus Dei*

Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world, have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sin of the world, grant us your peace.
a tempo
A - men. A - men. A - men.

~Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith. Our Savior Lutheran Church asks that only members come forward to receive the sacrament.

There is a Personal Preparation for Communion available on page 156 in the red hymnal.

HYMN | #545 *Send, O Lord, Your Holy Spirit*SONG OF SIMEON | *Nunc Dimittis*


In peace, Lord, you let your
 ser-vant now de-part ac-cord-ing to your word. For my
 eyes have seen your sal-va-tion which
 you have pre-pared for ev-'ry peo-ple, a
 light to light-en the Gen-tiles and the
 glo-ry of your peo-ple Is-ra-el.

Song of Simeon: The “Nunc Dimittis” (“Now dismiss”) is also known as the “Song of Simeon.” Through God’s Word and Sacrament, we have seen Jesus Christ, and like Simeon we find divine peace and comfort through faith in the Savior.

PRAYER

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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

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

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.

Amen.

HYMN | #323 *Almighty Father, Bless the Word*

~Please be seated

Blessing: *This blessing has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. It is known as the Aaronic blessing because the Lord first instructed Aaron, the first High Priest of the children of Israel, to share the promise of blessing: "So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them" (Numbers 6:27).*



OurSaviorBirmingham.com