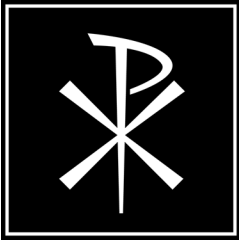




Divine Service

CHRISTIAN CHARACTER: PERSISTENT IN PRAYER



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Birmingham, Alabama

October 20, 2013

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome! 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 Welcome 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: Erik Roberson

Ushers: Erik Roberson, Shannon Sikes

Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz

Church Office: (205) 677-8642

Cell: (205) 478-6843

Email: Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY



Christian Character:
Persistent in Prayer

The believer prays persistently.

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, keep your household, the Church, in continual godliness and set us free from all adversities that, under your protection, we may serve you with true devotion and holy deeds. We pray this and all things through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FOR THE CHILDREN

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, or call the church office at (205) 677-8642.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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DIVINE SERVICE

OPENING HYMN

#411

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

INVOCATION

The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshipers of their baptisms.

~Please stand

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

(C)ongregation: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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: As we prepare to worship God and have our faith fed through Word and Sacrament, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for personal confession and reflection

LORD, HAVE MERCY ~ Kyrie

Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy
on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us. A - men.

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

L: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called 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.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

L: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord!

GLORY BE TO GOD ~ *Gloria in Excelsis*

Glo - ry to God in the
high - est, 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 in the

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.

high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

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 the

Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, re -

ceive our prayer. Glo - ry to God in the

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

SALUTATION

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

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

L: Let us pray:

Lord, keep your household, the Church, in continual godliness and set us free from all adversities that, under your protection, we may serve you with true devotion and holy deeds. We pray this and all things through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

~Please be seated



As Jacob wrestled with God on the banks of the Jabbok, so Christ invites us to wrestle with God in prayer. This is our privilege and duty won by him who struggled and has overcome the gates of hell itself.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 32:22-30 (pg. 53)

²²That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maidservants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. ²⁴So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. ²⁵When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. ²⁶Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."

But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

²⁷The man asked him, "What is your name?"

"Jacob," he answered.

²⁸Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome."

²⁹Jacob said, "Please tell me your name."

But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there.

³⁰So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."

I WAITED PATIENTLY
FOR THE LORD
HE TURNED TO ME AND
HEARD MY CRY

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills—
where does my help come from?
- ² **My help comes from the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.**
- ³ He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;
- ⁴ **indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**
- ⁵ The LORD watches over you—
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
- ⁶ **the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.**
- ⁷ The LORD will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;
- ⁸ **the LORD will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.**

The Lord's eyes are always upon us and his hand always beneath us. We can always look to him for help in time of need.

SECOND LESSON**1 John 5:13-15 (pg. 1903)**

¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

We can pray persistently because we have confidence in our salvation and confidence that our God hears us.

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

The persistent widow was determined: she would receive justice, even from a corrupt judge. Her determination kept her begging for justice day after day. Learn a lesson in prayerful persistence: How much more will our heavenly Father work justice and bring deliverance to those determined in prayer!

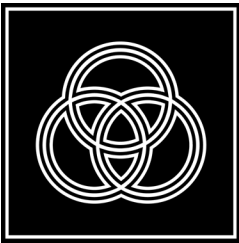
~Please stand

18 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. ²He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. ³And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

⁴"For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, ⁵yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!'"

⁶And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?"

⁸I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"



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.

NICENE CREED

C: 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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

During the singing of the next 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

#444

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

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

SERMON

Genesis 32:22-30

OFFERING

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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

~Please stand

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

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.



THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

PREFACE

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

- L: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**
L: Lift up your hearts.
C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**
L: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
C: **It is good and right so to do.**
L: 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 where 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

"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.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
God of might: heav'n and earth are full of your glo -
ry. Ho - san - na in the 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

L: 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."

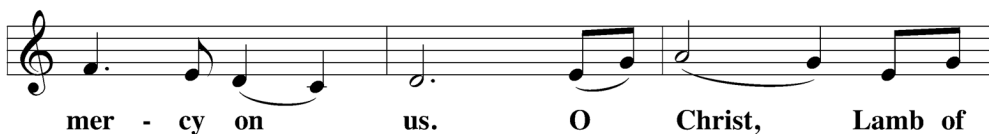
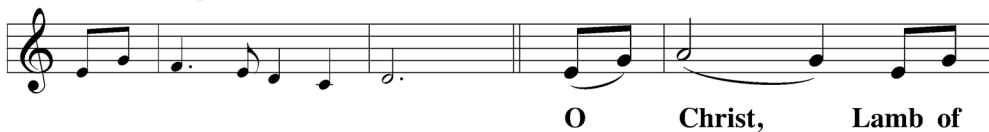
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

As he speaks the Words of Institution, the pastor both proclaims the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's use. The sign of the cross reminds us of Christ's death.

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD ~ *Agnus Dei*



Jesus is God's Lamb (Agnus Dei), who was offered as a sacrifice for sin once for all.

~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.

THANKSGIVING

SONG OF SIMEON ~ *Nunc Dimittis*

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.

~Please stand

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, the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

L: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **And his mercy endures forever.**

L: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, 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.

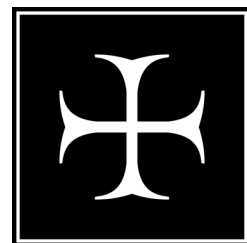
The Lord bless you and keep you.

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



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).

CLOSING HYMN

#408

Christians, While on Earth Abiding



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