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REFORMATION  
1517-2017

# STILL

**FAITH ALONE: GOD STILL WORKS**

**THE STORM OF TRUTH THAT BROUGHT ENDLESS PEACE**

*OCTOBER 22, 2017*



## WELCOME TO OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH!

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](http://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*

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

 **[Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com](mailto: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

God Still Works

October 22, 2017

This week we learn that God's eternal gifts become ours through a connecting agent called faith. Trust in Jesus connects us to all that he has done. 500 years ago, people put their trust in people (alive and dead), tradition, and anyone or anything that could assuage their fear. Today, the pendulum has swung in the opposite direction, as many teach and believe that belief in God makes no difference at all. Still half a millennium later, the truth lies in the middle: trust in Jesus Christ connects us to all that he has done for us. Still.

## 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:*

Lord God, forgive the wrongdoing of your people and be gentle with us in our weakness. Deliver us from the bondage of our sin and direct us to the path of righteousness; 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

Music: Brent Nolte

Soloist: Roger Benz

Ushers: Roger Benz, Makayla Benz

Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz

Church Office: (205) 677-8642

Cell: (205) 478-6843

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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# THE SERVICE



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**HYMN** | #239 *Glory Be to God the Father*

**Invocation:**

*This comes from the latin "invoco" which describes the act of calling upon or asking for help or support.*

*The Service begins with the words and sign of baptism ("Receive the sign of the cross...") to remind worshipers that we approach the Lord as his baptized children.*

**The Confession of Sins:**

*We confess our sins against God and one another and seek the Lord's mercy and forgiveness.*

*The Service encourages silent confession during a short pause following the confessional prayer.*

## INVOCATION

*~Please stand*

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

**Congregation: Amen.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

*1 John 1:8-9*

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his holy life and innocent death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray:**

**God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for personal confession and reflection*

## ABSOLUTION

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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 (t) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## LORD, HAVE MERCY | *Kyrie Eleison*

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## 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 - mighty  
God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you

### Worship Notes

#### **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.*

#### **Lord, Have Mercy:**

*“Kyrie” is the Greek word for “Lord.” “Eleison” is the Greek word for “have mercy.”*

*Having received the gift of the Lord’s forgiveness, we now make our requests on the basis of his mercy. This form of Lord, Have Mercy (Kyrie) addresses Christ as Lord in each of the petitions.*

#### **Hymn of Praise:**

*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.*



thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry. 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. 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. A - men.

# THE WORD



## Worship Notes

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### SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

#### **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

Let us pray:

Lord God, forgive the wrongdoing of your people and be gentle with us in our weakness. Deliver us from the bondage of our sin and direct us to the path of righteousness; 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*

***First Reading:***

*The First Reading is typically taken from the Old Testament and occasionally from the Book of Acts.*

- <sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the LORD,  
you rulers of Sodom;  
listen to the law of our God,  
you people of Gomorrah!
- <sup>11</sup> “The multitude of your sacrifices—  
what are they to me?” says the LORD.  
“I have more than enough of burnt offerings,  
of rams and the fat of fattened animals;  
I have no pleasure  
in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats.
- <sup>12</sup> When you come to appear before me,  
who has asked this of you,  
this trampling of my courts?
- <sup>13</sup> Stop bringing meaningless offerings!  
Your incense is detestable to me.  
New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations—  
I cannot bear your evil assemblies.
- <sup>14</sup> Your New Moon festivals and your appointed feasts  
my soul hates.  
They have become a burden to me;  
I am weary of bearing them.
- <sup>15</sup> When you spread out your hands in prayer,  
I will hide my eyes from you;  
even if you offer many prayers,  
I will not listen.  
Your hands are full of blood;
- <sup>16</sup> wash and make yourselves clean.  
Take your evil deeds  
out of my sight!  
Stop doing wrong,  
<sup>17</sup> learn to do right!  
Seek justice,  
encourage the oppressed.  
Defend the cause of the fatherless,  
plead the case of the widow.
- <sup>18</sup> “Come now, let us reason together,”  
says the LORD.  
“Though your sins are like scarlet,  
they shall be as white as snow;  
though they are red as crimson,  
they shall be like wool.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



*The soloist will introduce the refrain and sing the verses of the song.  
The congregation is invited to join in singing the refrain as indicated.*

**Psalm:**

*Along with the Old Testament believers we respond to God's gracious promises in the word and song of the Psalms. The singing of the Psalm, while connecting believers of both the Old and New Testament Ages, also connects today's readings.*

Refrain.

**Refrain.**

*Sing to God, O sing a new song; shout to your God all the earth.*

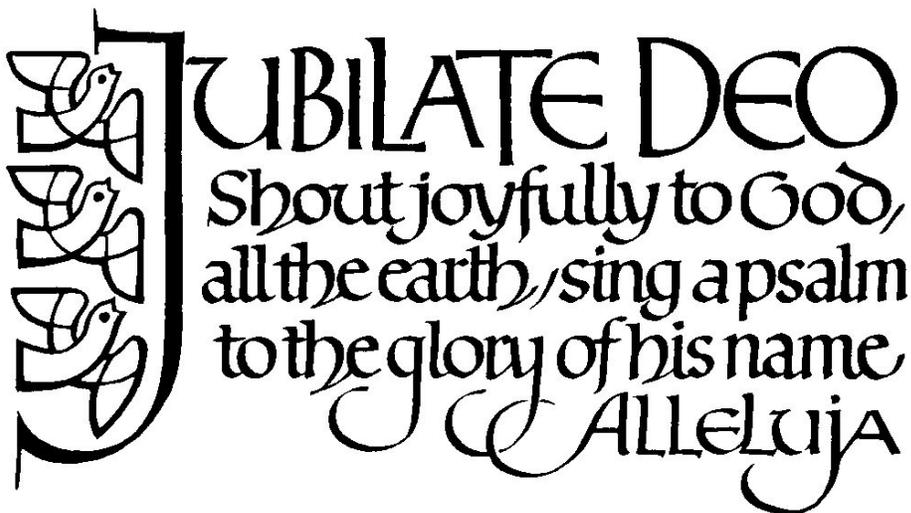
*Sing to God's own holiest name; tell of God's triumph, day through endless day. **Refrain.***

*Tell God's glory, tell ev'ry land. Sing of the works of your God.*

*Tell, O people, tell of your God; sing of high glory, sing of mighty deeds. **Refrain.***

*Sing of God's great glorious name; bring every gift to the throne.*

*Tell of wonder, holiness too; dance for God's glory, dance through all the earth. **Refrain.***



**Second Reading:**

*The Second Reading is from the New Testament letters of the apostles or the Revelation to St. John. It stresses Christian faith and Christian living as a response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

**SECOND READING | Romans 12:1-8 (pg. 1763)**

**12** Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. <sup>4</sup> Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. <sup>7</sup> If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | 2 Peter 3:18**

~Please stand

**Gospel Acclamation:**

*After the Second Reading, we prepare to hear the words and works of Jesus by standing to sing “Alleluia” which means “praise the Lord.” We continue to stand as we hear the Gospel.*

*Cantor then All*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
Lent: Praise to you, Lord Je - sus - Christ, King of  
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. lu - ia. lu - ia.  
end - less - glo - ry! glo - ry! glo - ry!

**Refrain**

Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever.

**Refrain**

The Gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter 25.

<sup>14</sup>“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. <sup>15</sup>To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. <sup>16</sup>The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. <sup>17</sup>So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. <sup>18</sup>But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

<sup>19</sup>“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.’

<sup>21</sup>“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

<sup>22</sup>“The man with the two talents also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.’

<sup>23</sup>“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

<sup>24</sup>“Then the man who had received the one talent came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. <sup>25</sup>So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

<sup>26</sup>“His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? <sup>27</sup>Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

<sup>28</sup>“ ‘Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. <sup>30</sup>And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*~Please be seated*

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

## **CHILDREN’S CHURCH**

### **Worship Notes**

#### **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.*

#### **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.*

## **Worship Notes**

### **Hymn of the Day:**

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

### **Sermon:**

*The Sermon is the Word of God, proclaiming the living voice of the Gospel to God's people.*

### **Confession of Faith:**

*Having heard the Word of God in readings and sermon, we respond with words of faith: What we have heard, we believe.*

*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:**

*We are seated as we pray for family and friends and people all over the world.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY | #421 All Depends on Our Possessing**

## **SERMON | Isaiah 1:10-18**

## **NICENE CREED | Credo**

*~Please stand*

**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**

Eternal Lord, you speak to us in words of love and light and power. Fill us with peace today as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Guide our lives today as we see clearly the path you have laid out for us. Work in us today through your Spirit that our thoughts, words, and actions glorify you and serve our neighbor.

**Fill us with the Word we have heard today and move us to believe it and live it.**

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Take away their fear of criticism and contention and make them bold to say what you say. Fill them with a love like yours and lead them to announce the forgiveness of sins as your free gift to us and all people.

**Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.**

Forgive us for the times we hear your Word but fail to live it in our lives. Break down the apathy that lurks in us and leads us to ignore eternal realities. Convict us with your law and then fill us so full of your gospel that we overflow with zeal to do your will.

**Give us thankful hearts to live and love with joy.**

Guard and guide us as we live in a society that despises what you say about marriage. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Move parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus even when their children grow up.

**Protect us from the evil that surrounds us; give us pure hearts and minds.**

Provide your divine compass for those who govern us by making laws and setting policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime and aggression. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to care for those who cannot care for themselves.

**Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.**

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

**Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in your grace.**

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. (*Pour out your special blessing on...here name the person and the cause of the petition.*) Fill eager minds with wisdom to discover new ways to treat disease and illness. Give patience and compassion to those who care for the sick and dying.

**Lift the eyes of the dying to your love in Christ.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Eternal Lord, you guide the world with your mighty power and love all people because your Son lived and died and rose again. Hear our prayers, spoken and in silence, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## 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. If you are a guest with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate.*

**Offering:**

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

# THE SACRAMENT



## 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 preserves his Church to the end of time when he will come again as king to judge all people and take his own to 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 hosts, heav - en and earth are  
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho -  
 san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### **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.

### **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.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho -

san - na in the high - est.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son’s body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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:**

*We give thanks and praise to God as we recall what Jesus did to save us.*

**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

**Words of Institution:**

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.

See Matthew 26:26-28 and 1 Corinthians 11:24-25.

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:**

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

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 peace, grant us peace.

~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** | #618 *Before the Lord We Bow*

*~Please stand*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

**His mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Worship Notes

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:**

*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).*

## **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

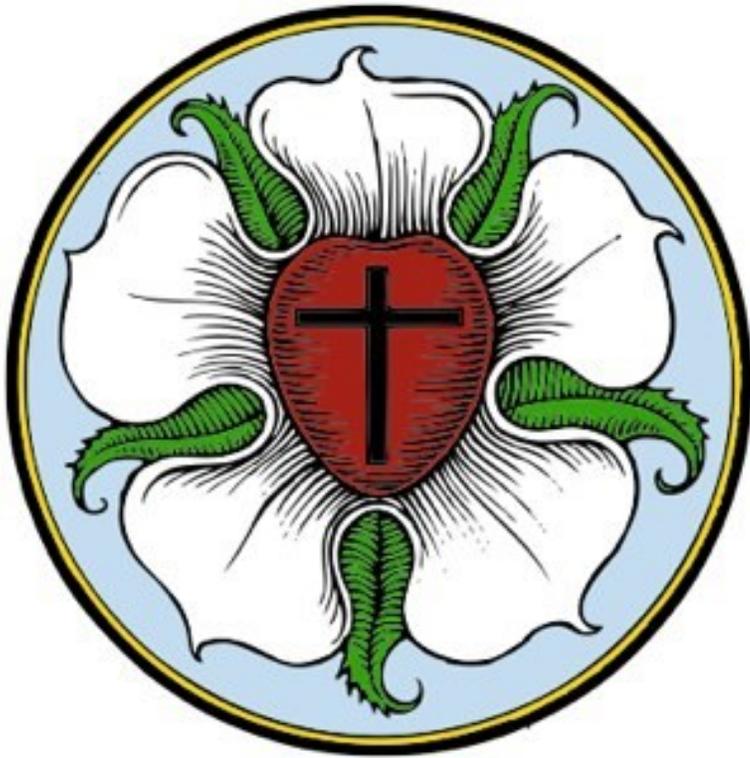
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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

**Amen.**

## **HYMN | #278 Holy God, We Praise Your Name**

*~Please be seated*





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