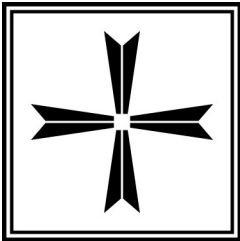


**LORD, KEEP US
FAITHFUL TO THE WORD**

*THE FESTIVAL OF THE LUTHERAN REFORMATION
OCTOBER 26TH, 2014*



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

OCTOBER 26TH, 2014 - FESTIVAL OF THE LUTHERAN REFORMATION

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 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: Rhoda Holbrook, Caleb Roberson

Instrumentalists: Olivia Boyce-Sauer, Pastor Ben Kratz

Ushers: Bob Holbrook, Roger Benz

Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz

Church Office: (205) 677-8642

Cell: (205) 478-6843

Email: Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY



Lord, keep us faithful to your Word! The Festival of the Lutheran Reformation of the Church emphasizes the true Church's unflinching reliance on the Word of God and unflinching testimony to it in the face of persecution. Jesus promised to pour out his Spirit on the Church that we might be God's mouthpiece even before kings. Today the Church prays that the Lord give us to strength to be faithful and the peace of knowing our lives are safe in his hands.

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:

Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church your saving peace; 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, 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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SERVICE OF THE WORD

OPENING HYMN

#204

O GOD, OUR LORD, YOUR HOLY WORD

~PLEASE STAND

INVOCATION

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

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

Congregation: **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 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.

C **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

L 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.

C **Amen.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY ~ KYRIE

L 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.

C Lord, have mercy.

L 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.

C Christ, have mercy.

L 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.

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Amen.

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

GLORY BE TO GOD ~ GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



1 All glo - ry be to God on high!
2 Our grate - ful thanks to you we bring,
3 O Lamb of God, to you we pray.
4 You, Christ, are ho - ly— Lord a - lone;



Your name, O Lord, we glo - ri - fy;
For your great glo - ry, heav'n - ly King,
You take all hu - man sin a - way.
The Fath - er's glo - ry you made known.



We praise you for your peace and grace,
For all, O Fath - er, you have done
Have mer - cy, Lord; re - ceive our prayer;
We by your Spir - it sing a - gain:



Your fav - or toward our fal - len race.
Through Je - sus Christ, your on - ly Son.
From God's right hand, your mer - cy share.
"All glo - ry be to God!" A - men.

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.

SALUTATION

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

L The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

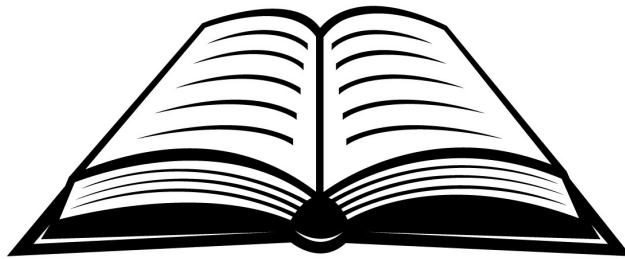
L Let us pray:

Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church your saving peace; 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

If you continue
IN MY WORD



you are truly
MY DISCIPLES

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

DANIEL 6:10-12,16-23 (PG. 1382)



God shut the lions' mouths to show his Church of all the ages that God is able to guard and keep his own. You can trust him and be faithful to his Word in the face of any persecution.

¹⁰Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. ¹¹Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. ¹²So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: "Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or man except to you, O king, would be thrown into the lions' den?"

The king answered, "The decree stands—in accordance with the laws of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed."

¹⁶So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"

¹⁷A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed. ¹⁸Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

¹⁹At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. ²⁰When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?"

²¹Daniel answered, "O king, live forever! ²²My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king."

²³The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 46

God is our refuge and strength in all adversity.

REFRAIN

If God is for us, who can be a -
gainst us? God is our sal - va - tion,
al - ways by our side.

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Choir: Refrain.

Congregation: Refrain.

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

*God is our refuge and our strength, an ever-present aid,
and therefore, though the earth be moved, we will not be afraid;
though hills into the seas be cast, though foaming waters roar,
the Lord of hosts is by our side, a refuge strong and sure. **Refrain.***

*A river flows who streams make glad the city of our God,
the holy dwelling of the Lord, the place of God's abode.
Since God is in the midst of it, our safety is secure;
the Lord of hosts is by our side, a refuge strong and sure. **Refrain.***

*Behold the wondrous deeds of God, who causes wars to cease;
The weapons of the strong destroyed, God brings abiding peace.
"Be still and know that I am God, exalted evermore."
the Lord of hosts is by our side, a refuge strong and sure. **Refrain.***

5 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

²Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. ³Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. ⁴You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope. ⁶For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

Paul's letter speaks clearly against work righteousness and plainly about grace. That meant much to Luther who had staked his life on both topics.

CHOIR ANTHEM

LORD, KEEP US STEADFAST IN YOUR WORD

*Choir: 1. Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word; Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from your Son And bring to nought all he has done.*

*Choir: 2. Lord Jesus Christ, your power make known, For you are Lord of lords alone;
Defend your holy Church, O Lord, that we may sing your praise triumphantly.*

Choir and Congregation:

**3. O Comforter of priceless worth, Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife And lead us out of death to life.**

This hymn was written by Dr. Martin Luther in 1541 because of a grave and growing threat. Militant Islam was on the move. Seeking to conquer the West and force conversion, the armies of Islam conquered much of the Mediterranean world. They conquered right up to Vienna, the gateway to Europe. A service of prayer for the safety of Christendom was held in 1541, and Luther wrote this hymn for the boys choir. It is prayer that God preserve his people regardless of the evil aims of this world.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 10:16-23 (PG. 1511)

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

Our trust in Jesus doesn't guarantee an absence of persecution, but faithfulness in spite of it.

~PLEASE STAND

L The Gospel according to Matthew chapter ten.

C **Glory be to you, O Lord.**

¹⁶ I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

¹⁷ "Be on your guard against men; they will hand you over to the local councils and flog you in their synagogues. ¹⁸ On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹ But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, ²⁰ for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

²¹ "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. ²² All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. ²³ When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. I tell you the truth, you will not finish going through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

~PLEASE BE SEATED

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHOIR

WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD

*Choir: We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;
We bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.*

*We worship you, God of our fathers, we bless you;
Through trial and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o'er take us, you will not forsake us,
And with your help, O Lord, our battles we win.*

**Choir and Congregation: With voices united our praises we offer;
To you, great Jehovah, glad anthems we raise.
Your strong arm will guide us; our God is beside us.
To you, our great, Redeemer, fore'er be 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 next hymn, parents may choose to escort their young child(ren) to our children's church, where they will hear a Bible story, sing some songs, learn a prayer, and do a craft.

HYMN OF THE DAY

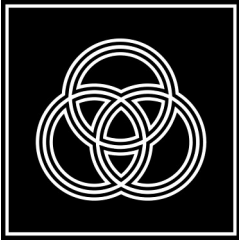
#200

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

Martin Luther wrote this hymn and sang it often for courage and strength. It was sung at the Diet of Augsburg (a fancy name of a church meeting in the city of Augsburg, Germany). It was at this meeting where a summary of the Lutheran faith was first confessed.

SERMON

DANIEL 6:10-12,16-23



NICENE CREED

~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.

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.*

~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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

~PLEASE STAND

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

L Lord, our refuge and strength, we gather to worship and praise you for your ongoing work of reformation in your Church.

C Lord, to you alone be glory.

L God of grace, in unfathomable love you pitied us sinners and sent your Son as our substitute to deliver us from sin, guilt, death, darkness, and despair.

C For your grace, Lord, to you alone be glory.

L By your grace you sent your Spirit to call us to repentance. Your powerful gospel rescued us from rebellion and fills us with faith in you, the true and living God.

C For saving faith, Lord, to you alone be glory.

L By your grace we are heirs of your eternal Word and trustees of the inspired Scriptures, through which you proclaim your saving truth to every generation. By the Scriptures you overthrew the darkness of those who perverted your teachings and restored to your church the message of salvation by grace alone.

C For the Holy Scriptures, Lord, to you alone be glory.

L In these last days, Lord Jesus Christ, protect your little flock. We are like sheep living among fierce wolves. Satan stalks us like a roaring lion. Defend us from false teachers who twist your Word to satisfy the latest longing.

C For wisdom and watchfulness under attack, hear our prayer, O Lord.

L Never in the history of the world has your Holy Word been so accessible. We lack only the zeal to treasure your restored truth with lives of faithful Bible study.

C For the noble character to search the Scriptures daily, hear our prayer, O Lord.

L As we celebrate the Reformation that restored your pure gospel to your Church, we also celebrate our common confession of the pure gospel in Word and sacrament.

C For this unity of faith, we give you thanks, O Lord.

L We remember the faithful confessors of this and former generations, who have passed down to us your Word of Truth.

C For these faithful servants, we give you thanks, O Lord.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

L Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

L In thanksgiving for the many and amazing blessings restored to your Church through the Reformation, we now commit ourselves to your care.

C Be our mighty fortress, our trusty shield and weapon, O Lord. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

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.

SONG OF SIMEON ~ NUNC DIMITTIS



1 O Lord, now let your serv - ant De - part in peace,
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All glo - ry to



as - sured: For I have seen your prom - ised In -
the Son, All glo - ry to the Spir - it, For -



car - nate, sav - ing Word— A Light that will en - light - en
ev - er three in one; For as in the be - gin - ning,



All gloom where Gen - tiles dwell; The bril - liant, crown - ing
Is now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -



glo - ry Of those in Is - ra - el!
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

- L** Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, 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

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

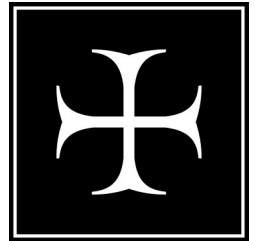
The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

☐ **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

#293

GOD'S WORD IS OUR GREAT HERITAGE

The one who
STANDS FIRM
to the end
WILL BE SAVED



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