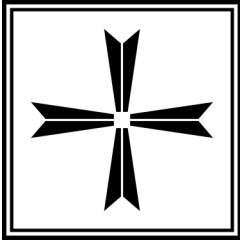


Service of the Word

**THE TRUTH WILL
SET YOU FREE**



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Birmingham, Alabama

October 27, 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: Rhoda Holbrook

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



The Truth Will Set You Free

It is the gospel of Jesus Christ that brings true freedom. This promise of forgiveness and resurrection to eternal life comes only through a righteousness found in the Savior. This righteousness sets the soul free from slavery, free to serve God. Hold to these teachings, and "you will be free indeed."

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. We pray this and all things through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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

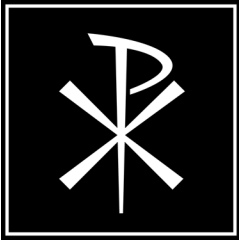
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SERVICE OF THE WORD

THE GATHERING

~Please stand

GREETING

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

(C)ongregation: Amen.

C: (#370 in hymnal) **All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown him Lord of all.**

**Hail him, ye heirs of David's line, Whom David Lord did call,
The God incarnate, Man divine, And crown him Lord of all.
The God incarnate, Man divine, And crown him Lord of all.**

L: Blessings and honor and glory and power be unto the One who sits on the throne,

C: **And to the Lamb, forever and ever.**

L: His blood sets us free to be people of God.

C: **Sinners whose love can ne'er forget The wormwood and the gall,
Go, spread your trophies at his feet And crown him Lord of all.
Go, spread your trophies at his feet And crown him Lord of all.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

L: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and repentant sinner, confess that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, my words, and my actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I am distressed by the sins that trouble me and am deeply sorry for them.

Silence for personal confession.

L: Jesus' death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. He said to his people, "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven." Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, I forgive you all your sins. Be assured that you are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life!

C: Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe
On this terrestrial ball
To him all majesty ascribe
And crown him Lord of all.
To him all majesty ascribe
And crown him Lord of all.

L: Fight the good fight of faith!

C: For the Lord, the righteous Judge, has laid up for us a crown of life.

L: For us, and for all who await his appearing.

C: Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
We at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown him Lord of all.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray:

Almighty 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. We pray this and all things through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

C: **Amen.**

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).

This greeting has deep roots in Christian worship.

~Please be seated



Through Jeremiah, the Lord describes the new covenant established by the promised Messiah, the covenant that has been established with us. The new covenant is a promise signed in the blood of the Christ. For the Lord's righteousness will come to hearts of faith.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (pg. 1227)

- 31 "The time is coming," declares the LORD,
"when I will make a new covenant
with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah.
- 32 It will not be like the covenant
I made with their forefathers
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of Egypt,
because they broke my covenant,
though I was a husband to them,"
declares the LORD.
- 33 "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel
after that time," declares the LORD.
"I will put my law in their minds
and write it on their hearts.
I will be their God,
and they will be my people.
- 34 No longer will a man teach his neighbor,
or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,'
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest,"
declares the LORD.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 46

God upholds the Church through his holy Word. He "is within her." His name will be exalted throughout the world. (This Psalm inspired Martin Luther to hold to God's truth even though the authorities around him so bitterly opposed him.

- 1 God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
- 3 **though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.**
- 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
- 5 **God is within her, she will not fall;
God will help her at break of day.**
- 6 Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, the earth melts.
- 7 **The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

- ⁸ Come and see the works of the LORD,
the desolations he has brought on the earth.
- ⁹ **He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear,
he burns the shields with fire.**
- ¹⁰ "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."
- ¹¹ **The LORD Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

SECOND LESSON

Romans 3:19-28 (pg. 1750)

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. ²⁰ Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

²¹ But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— ²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

²⁷ Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith. ²⁸ For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.

Yes, freedom from sin and freedom to live in all righteousness comes to us who live by faith. We have been declared innocent, and no law will shackle us again. Now we live for him who has set us free.

VERSE OF THE DAY



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Faith comes from hear - ing the mes - sage, and the



mes - sage is heard through the Word of Christ. Al - le -



lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL

John 8:31-36 (pg. 1663)

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

No more are we slaves to sin. We are free to live before God in righteousness and holiness as his children, members of his house forever.

~Please stand

³¹To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³²Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

³³They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

³⁴Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

After the Gospel, the congregation responds:

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

~Please be seated

SUNDAY SCHOOL ANTHEM

On My Heart Imprint Your Image

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

#200

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

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

SERMON

John 8:31-36

APOSTLES CREED

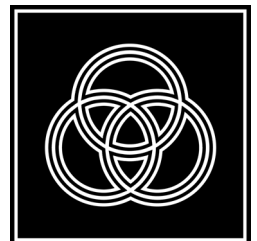
~Please stand

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

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

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

~Please be seated



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

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

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

~Please stand

- 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, 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

~Please be seated

HYMN

#203

Lord, Keep us Steadfast in your Word

BLESSING

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

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

C: Amen.

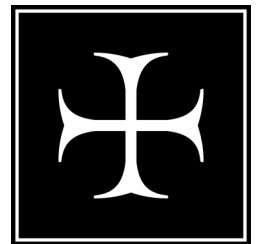
~Please be seated

CLOSING HYMN

#745

May the Peace of God

See Insert



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



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