

**GET TO THE
HEART OF IT**



SCRIPTURE—THE HEART OF TRUTH



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!

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 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

Scripture—The Heart of Truth

October 27, 2019

No one likes to have their time wasted. Unfortunately, that's often what happens when it comes to the Christian faith. The things that get all the attention are nothing but distractions from what matters most. Thankfully, Jesus and his Word are always helping us navigate the noise to get to the heart of the good news. We have seen that grace is at the heart of God and that what is in the heart of us leads us to despair and cling to God's grace.

Today, we see that it is the gospel of Jesus Christ that brings true freedom. The heart of God's Word is this promise of forgiveness and resurrection to eternal life come only found in the Savior Jesus. This work of saving us by Jesus sets the us free from slavery to sin and frees to now serve God. Hold to these teachings found in Scripture, and "you will be free indeed."

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:

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.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Ushers: Doug Lamon, Brent Panell

Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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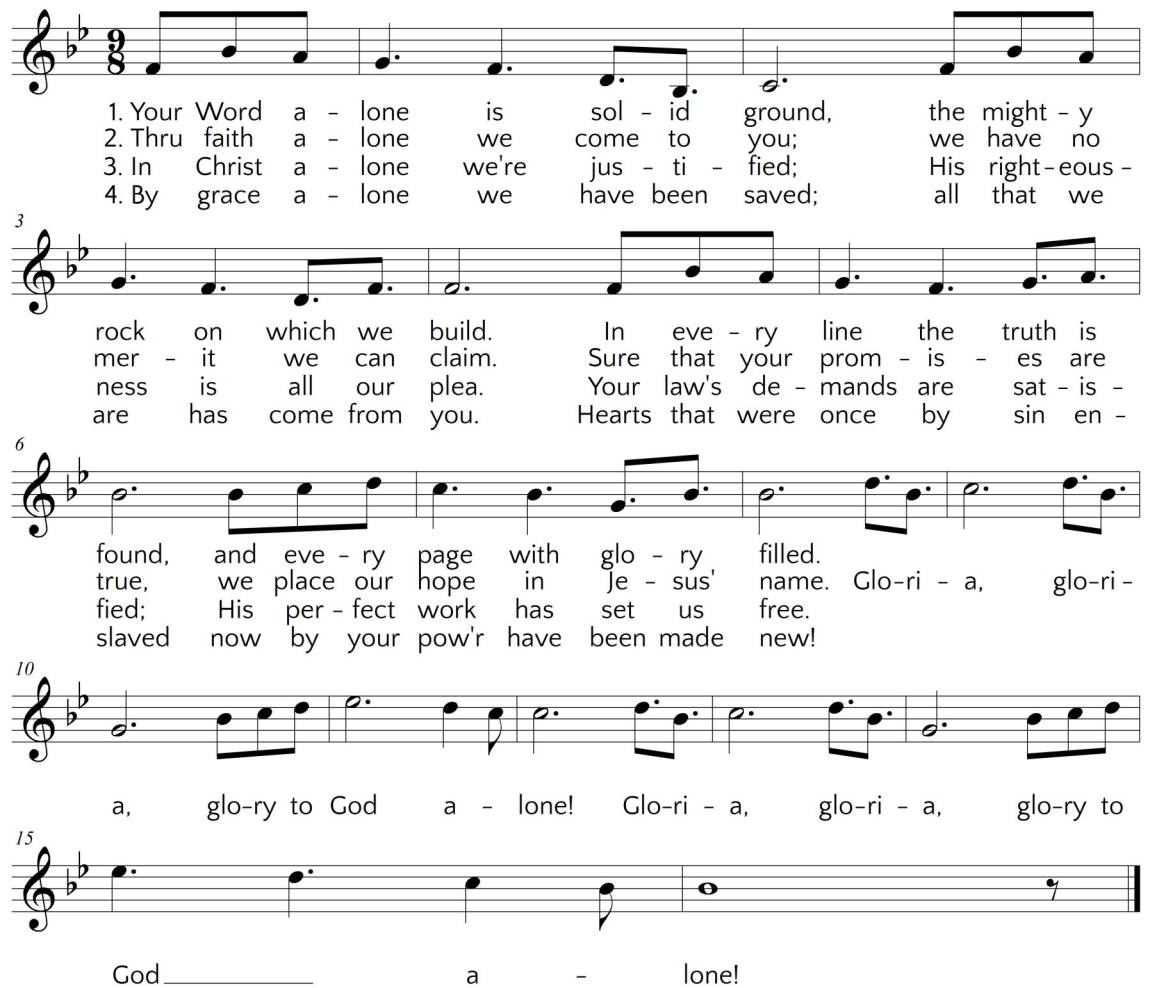
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Order of Service

HYMN *Reformation Song*

The final phrase of the last verse "now by your pow'r have been made new" is repeated before the Gloria refrain.

The "Gloria" refrain is repeated once after the final verse.



1. Your Word a - lone is sol - id ground, the might - y
2. Thru faith a - lone we come to you; we have no
3. In Christ a - lone we're jus - ti - fied; His right - eous -
4. By grace a - lone we have been saved; all that we

3
rock on which we build. In eve - ry line the truth is
mer - it we can claim. Sure that your prom - is - es are
ness is all our plea. Your law's de - mands are sat - is -
are has come from you. Hearts that were once by sin en -

6
found, and eve - ry page with glo - ry filled.
true, we place our hope in Je - sus' name. Glo - ri - a, glo - ri -
fied; His per - fect work has set us free.
slaved now by your pow'r have been made new!

10
a, glo - ry to God a - lone! Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ry to

15
God _____ a - lone!

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 worshippers of their baptisms.

PLEASE STAND

INVOCATION

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.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

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 live for you.

Amen.

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

The expression "Lord have mercy" is one of the oldest worship responses in the Christian church. It is also known by its Greek name, "Kyrie, eleison." "Kyrie" is the Greek word for "Lord," "eleison" for "have mercy."

GLORY TO GOD

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.

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 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 -
ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.
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:

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.

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

The First Reading is typically taken from the Old Testament and occasionally from the Book of Acts. In it we learn of God's mighty words and deeds with the Old Testament Church, the people of Israel.

FIRST READING *Jeremiah 31:31-34 (pg. 1227)*

God's new covenant sets us free from the law, sin, and guilt.

- 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.
“For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY *Psalm 46*

HYMN #200 *A Mighty Fortress*

SECOND READING *Galatians 5:1-6 (pg. 1815)*

Stand firm in the freedom of God's grace.

^{5:1} 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.

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

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

The Psalm is the most ancient part of our worship service. While most of our liturgy is 1,800 years old, Jews have been singing Psalms in worship for 3,000 years.

Second Reading

The Second Reading of Scripture 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.

Gospel Acclamation

The Gospel Acclamation, or Verse of the Day, is a Bible verse, often times from the New Testament, that echoes or reinforces the theme or tone of the focus of today's worship service.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *John 8:31-32*



Text: ICEL, © 1969
Music: *Mass of Light*, David Haas, © 1988, GIA Publications, Inc.

Refrain. (x2)

If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

Refrain. (x2)

GOSPEL *John 8:31-36 (pg. 1663)*

The Gospel according to St. John, chapter eight.

Glory be to you, O Lord!

The law makes us slaves; the truth sets us free.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

PLEASE BE SEATED

SUNDAY SCHOOL ANTHEM

Refrain: Siyahamb' ekukhanyeni kwenkos We are singing , for the Lord is our light.

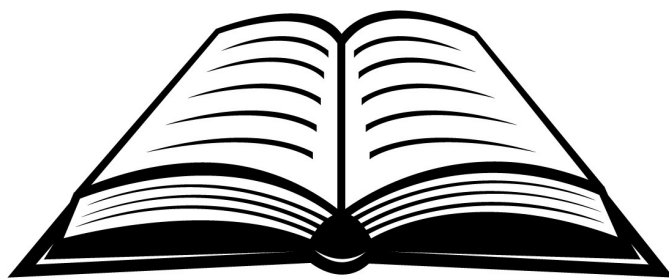
1. The Lord is the strength of our lives; Of whom shall we be afraid?
Though foes may be near to destroy; The Lord will be our light.
4. We walk in the strength of the Lord; God's love is ever sure.
We shout that the world may hear; We sing a joyful song.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

HYMN OF THE DAY #203 *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*

If you continue
IN MY WORD



you are truly
MY DISCIPLES

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. The preacher is the appointed representative who illuminates the Scripture for the congregation and applies it to our contemporary situation. He is neither lecturer nor entertainer, but a link through whom the Holy Spirit brings law and gospel to bear upon the hearts and minds of the worshiper and enlivens their faith and life.

WHAT IS THE BIBLE REALLY ALL ABOUT?

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."

NOTES:

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.

PLEASE STAND

NICENE CREED

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

PLEASE STAND

PREFACE

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 will soon come again in glory to deliver us forever from this present evil age. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

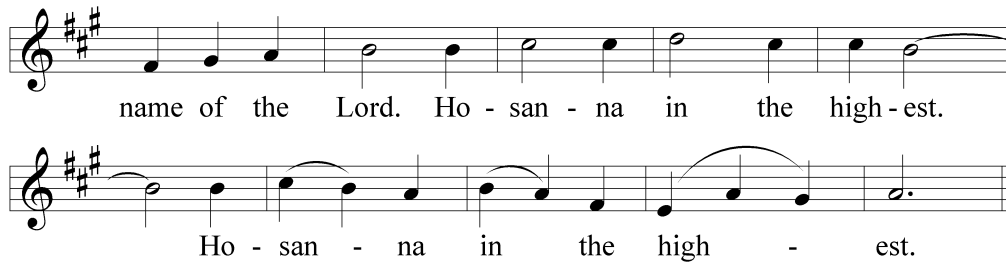
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly
Lord, God of pow-er, God of might: heav - en and
earth are full of your glo - ry,
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord! Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the

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

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. It is also known as the "Sanctus," which means "holy."



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

As he speaks the Words of Institution, the minister 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.

Lamb of God

Jesus is God's Lamb, who was offered as a sacrifice for sin once for all. This song is also known by its Latin title, the "Agnus Dei," which means "Lamb of God."

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

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 - 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.

Distribution

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.



Song of Simeon

The Song of Simeon is also known as the "Nunc Dimittis" ("Now dismiss"). 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

SONG OF SIMEON



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.

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 #293 *God's Word Is Our Great Heritage*

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).



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