

Reformation SUNDAY

The God We Serve Is Able to Save

October 28, 2018



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.



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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

The God We Serve is Able to Save

October 28, 2018

Today, we give thanks we have been rescued from the false ways of salvation that could only lead us to ruin and doom. We owe God thanks for that rescue accomplished by his grace alone, on account of Christ's merit alone, and through the means of grace alone. At the same time we remember that apart from unqualified commitment to his Word, grace can be lost and with it the saving faith created through the Word in the one and only Christ, our one and only Savior. Therefore let us hear the Word of the Lord! Prompted by his grace let us recommit ourselves to purity of doctrine that comes alone from the Word, and to a life that reflects our devotion to the Savior who gives himself for us and then to us in his pure Word and sacraments.

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: Keith Gammon, Micah Roberson

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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DIVINE SERVICE

HYMN | #200 *A Mighty Fortress*

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 (†) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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 worshipers of their baptisms.*

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.*

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, 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 - might - y God and

Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the

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

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.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly
 Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us.
 You are seat - ed at the right hand of the
 Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, re -
 ceive our prayer. Glo - ry to God in the
 high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. For
 you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the
 Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. Glo - ry to God in the
high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

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

FIRST READING | *Daniel 3:16-28 (pg. 1375)*

They as well could serve as the motto for the faithful in every generation who would rather die than give up a single word, from the Word of God. So great is the love of God for the truth that he leaves no age without martyrs to it! May we be counted worthy to be their heirs when the time comes for us to join them!

¹⁶Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. ¹⁸But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

¹⁹Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual ²⁰and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. ²¹So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. ²²The king’s command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, ²³and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

²⁴Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, “Weren’t there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?”

They replied, “Certainly, O king.”

²⁵He said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.”

²⁶Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!”

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, ²⁷and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

²⁸Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king’s command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.*

PSALM OF THE DAY | *Psalm 46*

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

Choir: Refrain.

Congregation: Refrain.

*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 whose streams make glad the city of our God,
 And 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;
 And 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.

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.

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 | *Revelation 14:6-7 (pg. 1928)*

This reading (used at Luther's funeral) extols both the grace of God and the true glory of the preaching ministry. For it is God alone who preserves his Word from the destructive wiles of the devil and wicked men on earth. Grab at it and drag it down though they will, God still holds his Word aloft as a saving breath of the Spirit wafting down on those who hear it. Where God receives all the glory for our salvation, we need not dread what men may do, nor even the judgment of God himself.

⁶Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. ⁷He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM | *Christ, the Solid Rock*

Lani Smith
Lorenz Publishing, C461-3

*My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim, But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.*

*His oath, his covenant, his blood Sustain me in the raging flood;
When all supports are washed away, He then is all my hope and stay.
On Christ, the solid rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.*

*When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found,
Clothed in his righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before the throne!
On Christ, the solid rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand. Amen!*

GOSPEL | *Mark 13:5-11 (pg. 1577)*

~Please stand

The Gospel according to St. Mark, chapter 13.

Glory be to you, O Lord.

Each error, each natural disaster, each country in turmoil should drive us to cling all the more tenaciously to his Word by which alone we are saved in the hour of judgment. For without his pure Word there is only faithless error, fear and torment, and finally a total separation from grace on the Day of Judgment. The Word in all of its truth and purity is the anchor which holds us and the rock on which we find refuge in the storms that threaten destruction, For the very heart and soul of that Word is Christ, the incarnate anchor and rock of our salvation.

⁵ Jesus said to them: “Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁶ Many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and will deceive many. ⁷ When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁸ Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.

⁹ “You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. ¹⁰ And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. ¹¹ Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

~Please be seated

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

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

CHILDREN’S CHURCH

During the singing of the 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 | #204 *O God, Our Lord, Your Holy Word*

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.*

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.*

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.

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

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...)* 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 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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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

Preface: The opening words of the communion liturgy mark the beginning of the Sacrament section of the service and lift the worshippers' 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.

ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na in the high - est. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

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: 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

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*

O Christ, Lamb of

God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of

God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of

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 (*Agnus Dei*) who was offered as a sacrifice for sin once for all.

God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. 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.

HYMN | #403 *I Know My Faith is Founded*

~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.

PRAYER

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.

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 (f) give you peace.

Amen.

HYMN | #203 *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*

~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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