REVEALED...
AS THE SAVIOR OF ALL

January 6, 2013 - *The Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord*

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Place to Belong

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Those who serve:
Music / Sound: Roger Benz
Ushers: Erik Roberson, Shannon Sikes

JANUARY 6, 2013 — THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

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.

- **Restrooms** are located at the end of the hallway as you exit the sanctuary.
- **Your children** are always welcome at Our Savior. If your little one is having a difficult morning, there is a speaker in the entrance hallway and also in our nursery.

TODAY'S THEME:

REVEALED... AS THE SAVIOR OF ALL

The word "epiphany" means, "to reveal." The visit of the Magi to the Christ child reveals that Christ came to be the Savior of all people, regardless of their race or background. Today we celebrate the truth that Christ is revealed as the Savior of the world.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Father in heaven, on this sacred day I remember the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ. By his death and resurrection I am forgiven and permitted to come into your presence. Fill my heart with your Spirit as I worship you today. Hear my prayer for the sake of Jesus Christ, my Savior. Amen.

Divine Service

Welcome from Pastor Kratz

Opening Hymn: #80 *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

PLEASE STAND

Greeting

(L)eader: The grace of our Lord (†) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

(C)ongregation: And also with you.

Confession of Sins

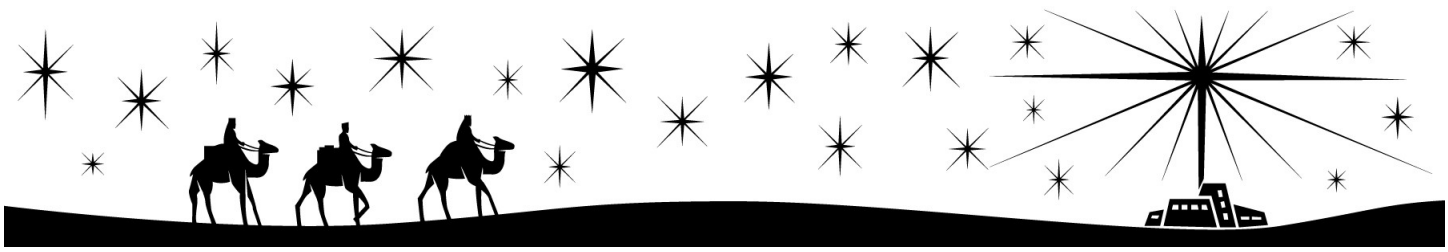
L: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for personal confession and reflection

L: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

C: Amen.



Prayer and Praise

Lord, Have Mercy ~ *Kyrie*

L: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

L: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

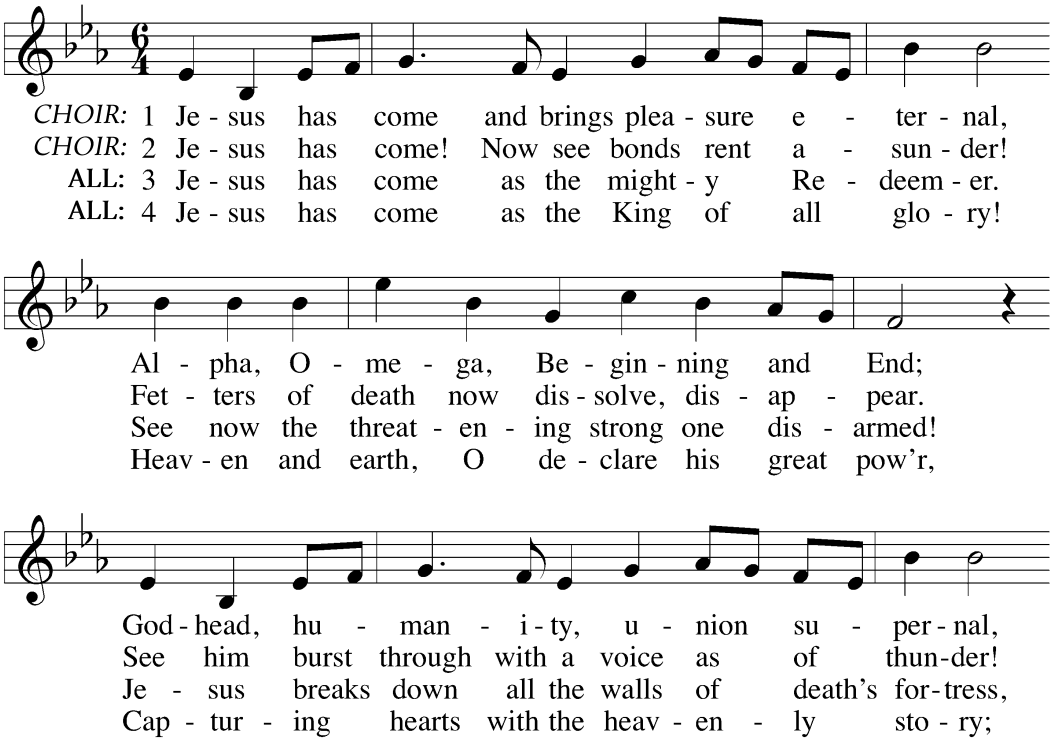
C: Lord, have mercy.

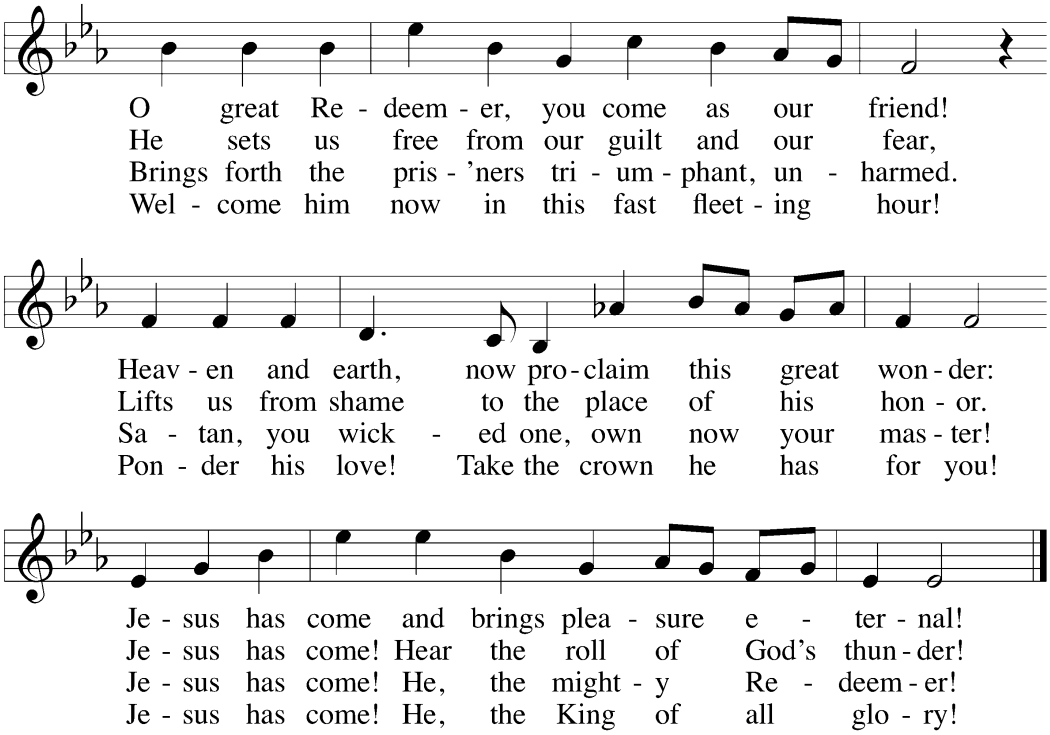
L: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C: Amen.

L: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise!

Song of Praise ~ *Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure Eternal*





This fresh-sounding Epiphany offering recounts the eternal treasures we possess in our Savior-King.

Text: Johann Ludwig Conrad Allendorf, 1693–1773; tr. Oliver C. Rupprecht, 1903–2000, alt. © 1982 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Tune: JESUS IST KOMMEN, GRUND EWIGER FREUDE (11 10 11 10 11 11) Cöthen, c. 1733
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray:

Lord God, by the leading of a star you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith, to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory. We pray this and all things through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

PLEASE BE SEATED

The Word

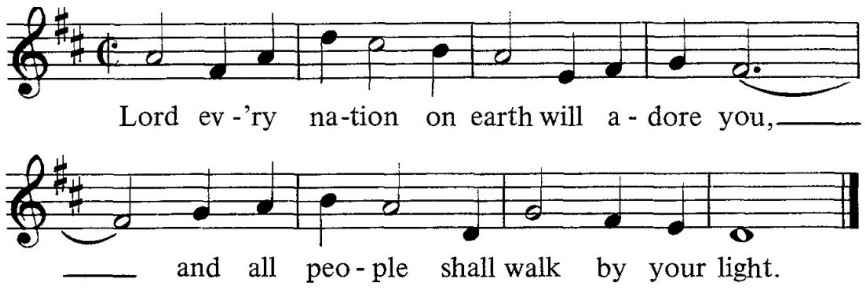
First Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6 *(Pg. 1155)*

The glory of the Lord rises upon all nations

60 "Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.
2 See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.
3 Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
4 "Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the arm.
5 Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.
6 Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.
And all from Sheba will come,
bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 72

The choir will sing the verses of the Psalm. The congregation is invited to join in singing the refrain.



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God, may your judgment come dwell in your king,
your justice to each son and daughter;
Oh show forth your justice, you mercy to the poor. **Refrain.**

Justice shall flourish, and peace forevermore, from the seas to the ends of the earth. **Refrain.**

For he shall rescue the poor when they cry, the weak and the helpless he shall save;
His mercy will shine on the poor and needy souls. **Refrain.**

Second Lesson: Ephesians 3:2-12 *(Pg. 1820)*

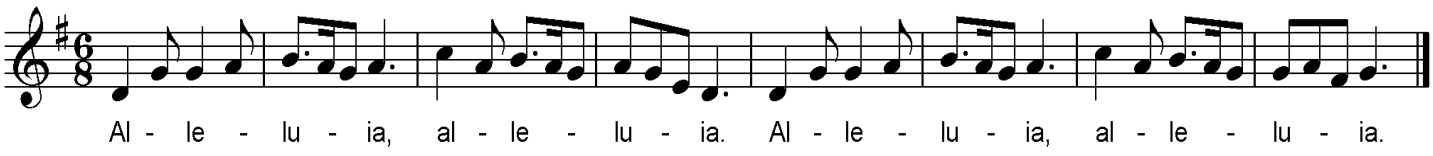
The gospel is for all people

2 Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, 3 that is, the
mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. 4 In reading this, then, you will be able
to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which was not made known to men in other generations as
it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. 6 This mystery is that through the
gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the
promise in Christ Jesus.
7 I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. 8
Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the
unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages
past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. 10 His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold
wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, 11 according to his
eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. 12 In him and through faith in him we may
approach God with freedom and confidence.

Verse of the Day: Matthew 2:2

The congregation is invited to sing the refrain both before and after the verse.

REFRAIN



Refrain. *We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.* **Refrain.**

PLEASE STAND

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12 *(Pg. 1497)*

The wise men worship the Christ-child

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to
Jerusalem [2] and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and
have come to worship him."

[3] When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. [4] When he had called together
all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. [5] "In
Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

[6] " 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'"

[7] Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. [8] He
sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to
me, so that I too may go and worship him."

[9] After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of
them until it stopped over the place where the child was. [10] When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. [11] On
coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then
they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. [12] And having
been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

After the Gospel, the congregation says:

C: 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 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: #79 *How Lovely Shine the Morning Star*

Sermon

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

Offering

The members of Our Savior Lutheran Congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. If you are a guest today, you need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.

Installation of the Our Savior Lutheran Church Council

Mr. Erik Roberson, President
Mr. Shannon Sikes, Secretary
Mr. Scott Rader, Evangelism Elder
Mr. Bob Holbrook, Facilities Elder
Mr. Roger Benz, Financial Elder

PLEASE STAND

Prayer of the Church

L: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death.

C: You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.

L: Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

C: You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.

L: Prince of peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

C: Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.

L: Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn:

C: Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

L: Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

C: 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.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

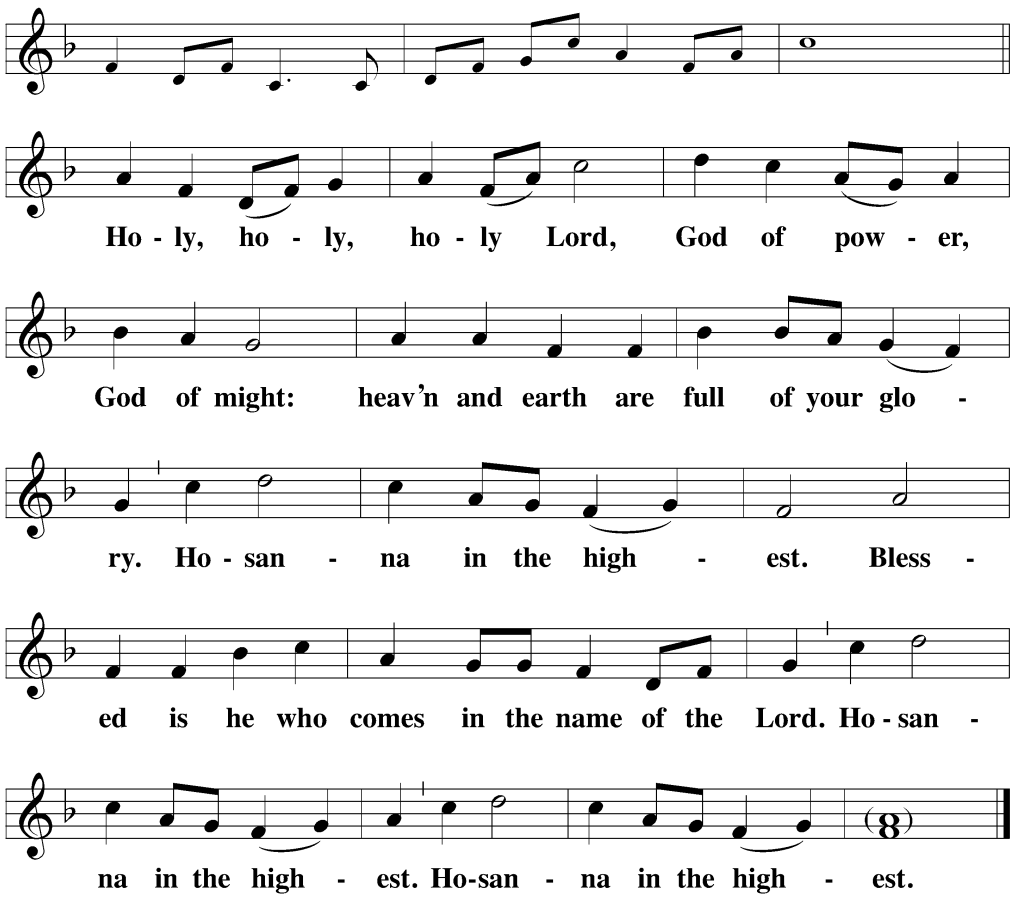
Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he comes. Our Savior Lutheran Church practices "Close Communion" and 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.

Preface

L: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.
L: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them up to the Lord.
L: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
C: It is good and right so to do.
L: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. In the past he spoke to us through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, who is the radiance of his glory. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

Holy, Holy, Holy ~ *Sanctus*



Words of Institution

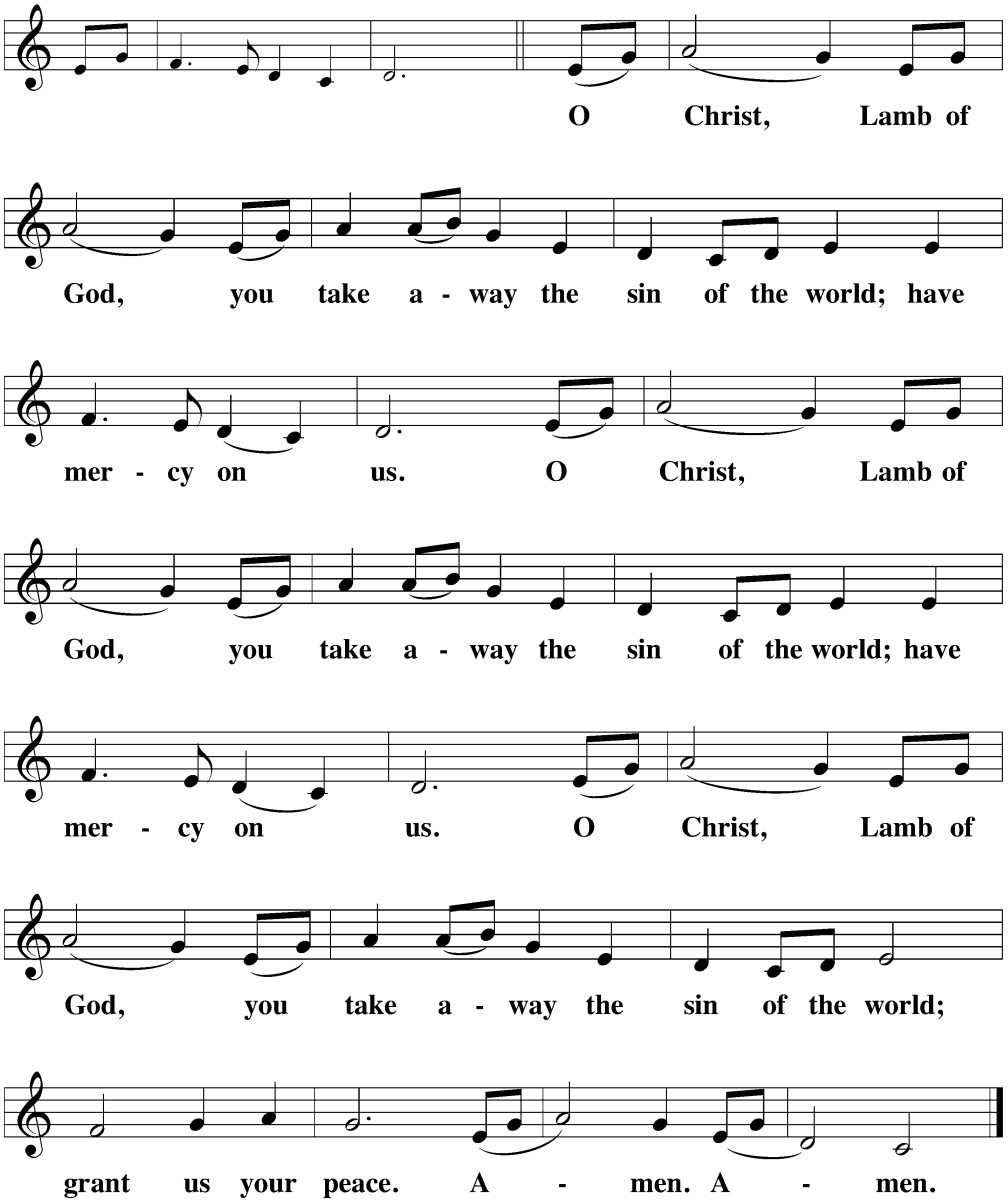
L: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat, this is my (†) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

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."

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God ~ *Agnus Dei*



PLEASE BE SEATED

Distribution of Holy Communion

Thanksgiving

PLEASE STAND

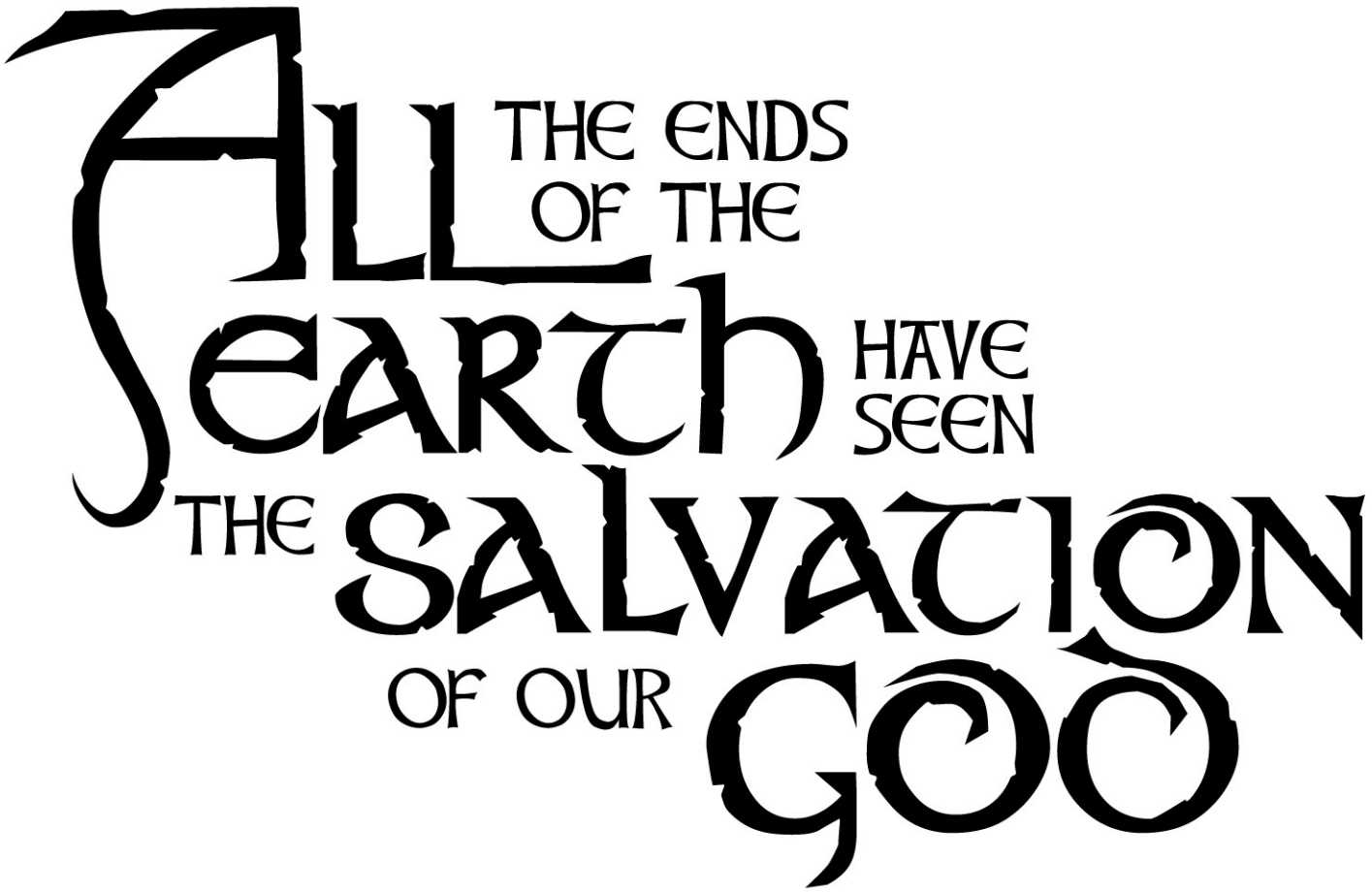
Song of Thanksgiving ~ *#318 "Sent Forth By God's Blessing"*

L: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, 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

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: #94 *O Jesus, King of Glory*

Prayer After Worship

Lord, you have revealed to me the sweet counsel of your Word, the joy shared with fellow Christians, the balm of peace for my soul. Accept the worship of my heart and the praise of my lips. With the complete assurance that my sins are forgiven through Jesus Christ, I commend myself into your care now and forever. Amen.

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About Our Savior...

Our Savior Lutheran Church is a growing church that serves the southern neighborhoods of Birmingham. We are a Christian church that is looking forward to serving people with God's Word.

Our Savior's message is a wonderful message for you. Our theme is "***A Place to Belong.***" That means that because of our Savior's love for you, you belong to him. You belong to his family. His love will always outweigh the wrongs you have done and the sadness you have had! Our loving God always loves us more.

If you are new to the area or looking for a church home, accept our invitation to meet our pastor and find out more about us. Besides weekly worship, we also offer Bible class to individuals and groups of all ages, Christian counseling, and literature. Please come and worship with us again! Think of this as your community church, and know that you are welcome to join us here anytime.

We hope you find Our Savior "A Place to Belong!"

Benjamin Kratz, Pastor
(205) 478-6843 [cell]
(205) 618-9065 [home]

Announcements

- **Welcome to guests and visitors!** We are glad that you are here, and hope that you will join us again soon!

- **Spiritual Growth Opportunities:**

  Sunday Bible Class: *Sunday mornings at 9:00 am*. God promises the believer that he will face trials in life. Join us as the Apostle Paul encourages the Thessalonians and you and me in our trials with the comfort of the Gospel. Our Sunday Bible class will be studying 1-2 Thessalonians.

  Sunday School: *Sunday mornings at 9:00 am*. Our Sunday school, which uses the award-winning Christ-Light curriculum, offers Bible lessons for children from nursery age through grade 12.

  Wednesday Bible Class: *Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm*. Join us as we study Paul's letter to the Philippians and see not only the joy the believer has in life, but learn to live a life worthy of the Gospel.

  Bible Class for Beginners: *Wednesday evenings at 8:00 pm.* Don't feel like you know enough about the Bible to attend a regular Bible class? Join us for this class designed just for you! We will be taking a look at some of the important chapters of the Bible to learn not only the truths of God's Word, but how it all fits together!

- **FaithBuilders Class:** Faithbuilders is for people interested in becoming members at Our Savior, or for people just looking to build their faith through the study of the basic teachings of the Bible. Classes are held on Tuesday nights at 7 pm. If you would like to attend, contact Pastor Kratz. Childcare is available. Everyone is welcome!

- **Looking to serve?** Were you greeted by a warm smile as you entered the service today? Would you like to bless someone with your smile on an upcoming Sunday, or put yourself to work in other ways make our guests feel welcome? Then why not serve as an usher or greeter next week? For most of these, just show up about 10:00 am and be ready to smile, shake someone's hand or help serve some coffee and snacks. Contact Pastor Kratz at Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com or 677-8642 for more information about serving opportunities.

- **Keep in Your Prayers This Week.** God promises us that the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. He also tells us to pray for one another. Hearing God's powerful promises, confidently bring these requests to the throne of our heavenly Father: *(If you have a prayer request, please contact Pastor Kratz.)*

  Members and friends of Our Savior who, by God's grace, have been brought through trials. Join them in thanking the Lord for his mercy and goodness.

  Members and friends of Our Savior who are struggling with physical, financial and emotional hardships. Ask the Lord to give them the peace and strength they need.

- **Invite a Friend to Church!** Here are the themes for the worship services the coming weeks. Use them to invite a friend, a relative, a neighbor to come with you saying, "Our worship this week is all about…"

  1/13: REVEALED… as the Anointed One (The Baptism of Our Lord)

  1/20: REVEALED… as True God

  1/27: REVEALED… as the Promised Deliverer

- **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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This Week at Our Savior

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7	8 *Ben Elliott's & Lisa Hellwig's Birthday*	9 **Wednesday Night Bible Class** 7:00 pm **Bible Class for Beginners** 8:00 pm	10	11 *Shannon Sikes' Birthday*	12 *Elliott's Wedding Anniversary*	13 **Sunday School/ Bible Class** 9:00 am **Worship** 10:15 am

1 Year Chronological Bible Reading: Week #2

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
14 **Pastor at Circuit Meeting**	15 **Pastor at Circuit Meeting**	16 *Eden Roberson's Birthday* **Wednesday Night Bible Class** 7:00 pm **Bible Class for Beginners** 8:00 pm	17	18 *Sikes Wedding Anniversary*	19	20 **Sunday School/ Bible Class** 9:00 am **Worship** 10:15 am

1 Year Chronological Bible Reading: Week #3

- Upcoming Schedule

  Cleaning: January: Church Family A (Herda / Holbrook / Jung / Schoel / Sikes / Weiss / Wright)

  Flowers: 1/6: OPEN
  1/13: OPEN
  1/20: OPEN

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Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com

Our Savior Lutheran Church is a member of a group of more than twelve hundred churches called Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Church or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church with congregations serving all fifty of the United States, as well as Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and over 25 countries through world mission work.

WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.