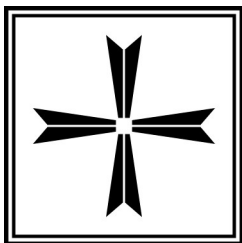


READY (OR NOT) NAUGHTY OR NICE

*THE LAST JUDGEMENT
NOVEMBER 8TH, 2015*



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 8th, 2015 | *The Last Judgement*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word. If you are a guest, please fill out a Connection card found in our entryway. You can place it in the offering plate or hand it to Pastor or an usher as you leave.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Sound / Music: Roger Benz

Ushers: Erik Roberson, Bob Holbrook

Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz

Church Office: (205) 677-8642

Cell: (205) 478-6843

Email: Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

It sure is easy for what is urgent to crowd out what is important. That's never truer than this time of year. Even as we urgently get ready for Christmas, we also want to make sure we are prepared for what is important: Christ's second coming. This week we focus on the verdict that each of us will hear on the day of judgment. Unlike our judgments, which can be skewed by emotion, bias, or lack of information, Christ's judgment will be perfectly just. While this is a frightening fact to those who do not know him, God's people take comfort in the fact that the one who loved them enough to suffer and die for them will also decide their eternal fate.

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:

Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and to the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us steadfast in true and living faith and present us at last holy and blameless before you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. God, now and forever. Amen.

FOR FAMILIES

Children's Activity Sheets give activities and lessons pertaining to the Scripture lessons for the day. Ask an usher at the door into the sanctuary.

If your little one needs a moment, there is a speaker and window in our entryway that will allow you to see and hear the service.

Children's Church is a special place for younger children to hear a Bible story, sing some songs, learn a prayer, and do a craft. You can escort your child to our children's church just before the sermon as noted in the service folder.

INFORMATION

Bathrooms are located at the end of the end of the hallway as you exit the sanctuary.

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.

Looking for more information? If you would like to learn more about Our Savior Lutheran Church...

- check out our information table in the entryway,
- Scan the code to the right with your smartphone
- speak with Pastor Kratz after the service, send him an email at: Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com, or call the church office at (205) 677-8642.



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



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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DIVINE SERVICE

HYMN | #206 *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying*

~Please stand

INVOCATION

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

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

Congregation: Amen.

CONFESSION 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).

L As we prepare to worship God and have our faith fed through Word and Sacrament, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ 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

LORD, HAVE MERCY | *Kyrie*

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



- 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

- L** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord!

GLORY BE TO GOD | *Gloria in Excelsis*

The musical score is written on seven staves of five-line music paper. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics 'Glo - ry to God in the' are aligned under the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics 'high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.' The third staff has the lyrics 'Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and'. The fourth staff has the lyrics 'Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we'. The fifth staff has the lyrics 'praise you for your glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the'. The sixth staff has the lyrics 'high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.' The seventh staff begins with a double bar line, followed by a key signature change to one flat (Bb), and then the lyrics 'Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly'.

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 Je - sus Christ, on - ly

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.

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

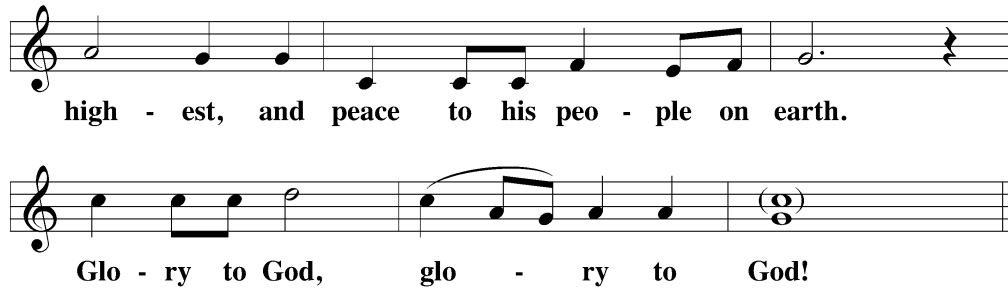
high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. For

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



SALUTATION

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

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

L Let us pray:

Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and to the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us steadfast in true and living faith and present us at last holy and blameless before you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

~Please be seated



All mankind will appear
before Jesus to be
judged.

THE WORD

LESSON | *Daniel 7:9-10 (pg. 1384)*

⁹“As I looked,

“thrones were set in place,
and the Ancient of Days took his seat.

His clothing was as white as snow;
the hair of his head was white like wool.

His throne was flaming with fire,
and its wheels were all ablaze.

¹⁰ A river of fire was flowing,
coming out from before him.

Thousands upon thousands attended him;
ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.

The court was seated,
and the books were opened.

PSALM OF THE DAY | *Psalms 90*

Though the Lord sees
even our secret sins,
we sing for joy at his
unfailing love.



The leader will introduce the refrain and sing the verses of the song.

The congregation is invited to join in singing the refrain as indicated.

[L] Refrain.

[C] Refrain.

Lord, you have been our dwelling place From past to coming age the same;
The mountains rise to greet your face, The earth proclaims the Maker's name. **Refrain.**

Each generation fades as grass, And flesh as dust returns to sod;
A thousand years spent here below Are but as yesterday to you. **Refrain.**

Teach us to measure all our days, That wisdom may our purpose be;
Each moment guide with righteousness, And fill with fervent praise to you. **Refrain.**

Our mornings may you fill with love, And show your grace when day is past;
That all our life may favor find, Till we shall be with you at last. **Refrain.**

LESSON | *Romans 2:2-11 (pg. 1748)*

²Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth.³ So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? ⁴Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

⁵But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. ⁶God "will give to each person according to what he has done." ⁷To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.⁸ But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. ⁹There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile;¹⁰ but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.¹¹For God does not show favoritism.

Jesus' judgment will be based on the truth

VERSE OF THE DAY | *Revelation 7:15a*

- ℣ Alleluia! Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.
Alleluia!



GOSPEL | *Matthew 25:31-46 (pg. 1542)*

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

Jesus' judgement is compared to the separation of sheep and goats.

~Please stand

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

³⁷“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

⁴⁰“The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’

⁴¹“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴²For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

⁴⁴“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

⁴⁵“He will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

⁴⁶“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



NICENE CREED | *Credo*

C 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.

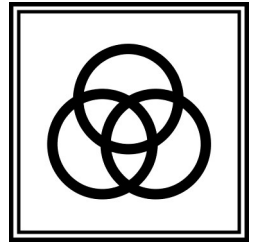
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian* and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

~Please be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

HYMN | #382 *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*



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.*

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

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.

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

SERMON | *Matthew 25:31-46*

~Please stand

After the sermon, the congregation sings:



Cre - ate in me a
pure heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with -
in me. Do not cast me a - way from your
pres - ence or take your Ho - ly Spir - it from
me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

~Please be seated

OFFERING

Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

~Please stand

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

- L** Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord; O Lord, hear our voices.
 - C** **Let your ears be attentive to our cries for mercy.**
 - L** Heavenly Father, we confess with sorrow that we have sinned and deserve only your anger and punishment.
 - C** **If you kept a record of our sins, we would surely be lost.**
 - L** We confess with joy that your unfailing love has redeemed us.
 - C** **Our hope is in you and in your full redemption.**
 - L** Around us we see the birth pangs of the last days: war, famine, earthquakes, false prophets, spiritual apathy.
 - C** **Use these signs to remind us that we do not know the day or hour when Christ will come again.**
 - L** Keep us faithful to your Word; send your Spirit to strengthen our faith so that we are always prepared for your Son's return as judge.
 - C** **Make us faithful in sharing your Word, and cause many more to put their hope in you before the end comes.**
 - L** Build our fellowship of love as brothers and sisters in faith.
 - C** **Help us support one another when trials and troubles come our way.**
- Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*
- L** Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.
- Silent prayer.*
- L** Heavenly Father, we eagerly wait for Jesus to come again and make all things new. May he find us, whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life, faithfully enduring to the end, through the power of your Holy Spirit.
- C** **Come, Lord Jesus. May your grace be with us. 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

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.

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 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*

"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.

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 -
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.

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."

As he speaks the Words of Institution, the pastor 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.

L The peace of the Lord be with you always.

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

Jesus is God's Lamb (Agnus Dei), who was offered as a sacrifice for sin once for all.



DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

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.

The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord's Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another who are united around a common confession of faith.

THANKSGIVING

SONG OF SIMEON | *Nunc Dimittis*

The "Nunc Dimittis" ("Now dismiss") is also known as the "Song of Simeon." Through God's Word and Sacrament, we have seen Jesus Christ, and like Simeon we find divine peace and comfort through faith in the Savior.

~Please stand

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, the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

L O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C **And his mercy endures forever.**

L O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, 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.

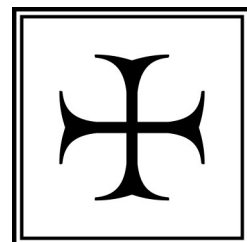
The Lord bless you and keep you.

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



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).

HYMN | #207 *The Day Is Surely Drawing Near*

Are You Ready?

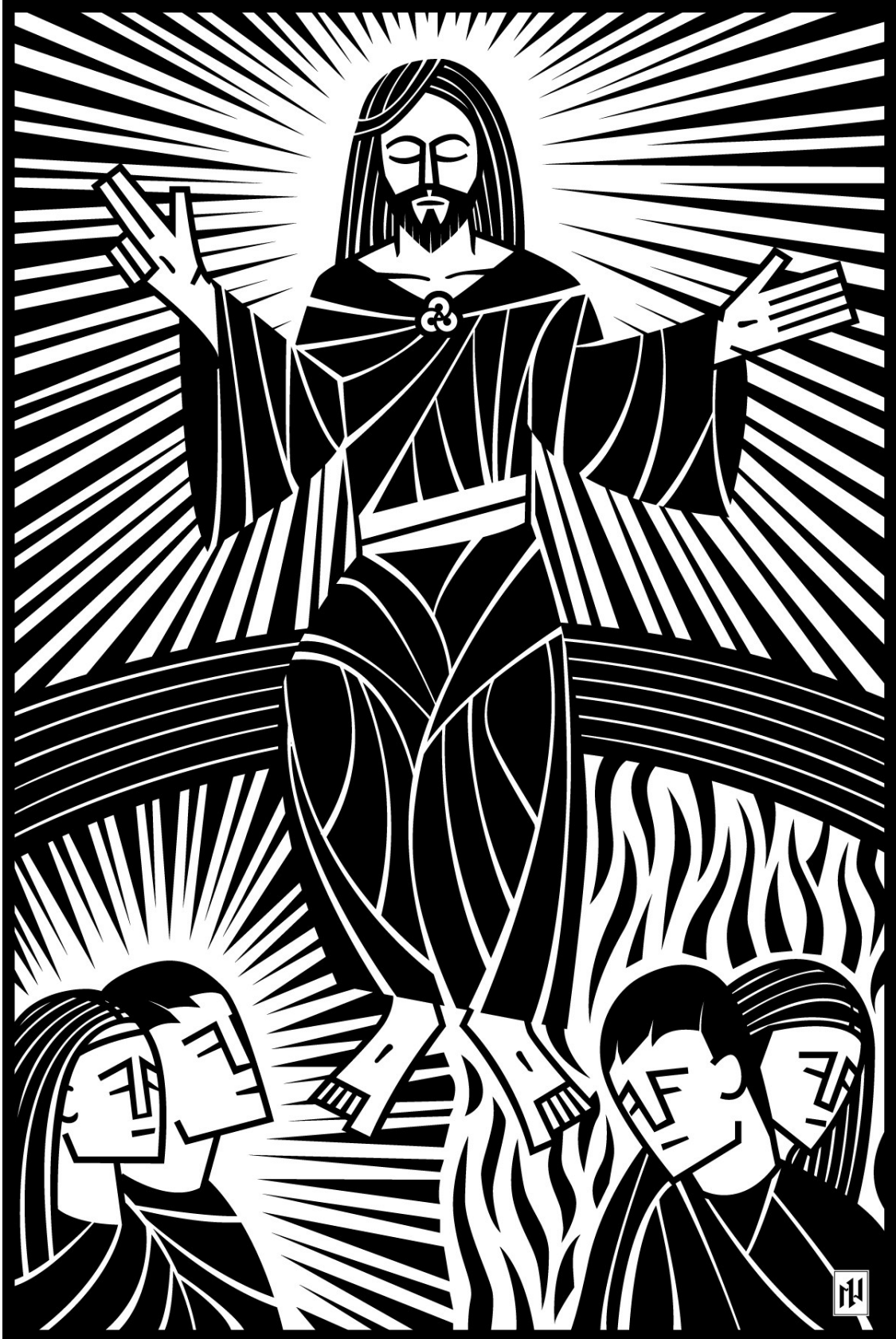


IT'S TIME TO GET READY

It sure is easy for what is urgent to crowd out what is important. That's never truer than this time of year. With Christmas fast approaching, there are so many things for which we are urgently getting ready. Join us as we take time to make sure we are ready for what is truly important.

NEW SERIES: READY (OR NOT)

- November 8: Naughty or Nice
- November 15: Here He Comes
- November 22: Playing for Keeps
- November 29: The "To Do" List
- December 6: Bright Lights
- December 9: All Time #1 Hits
- December 13: Spirit of the Season





OurSaviorBirmingham.com