



*OurSaviorBirmingham.com*

WHERE  
IS GOD?



HE IS THERE: BAPTIZING YOU



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](https://www.oursaviorbirmingham.com) | Video and audio sermons archives, calendar of events, and more!

 [@OurSaviorBham](https://twitter.com/OurSaviorBham) | Daily Bible passage, weekly sermon videos, and upcoming events

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 [OurSaviorBham](https://www.youtube.com/OurSaviorBham) | Weekly sermon videos and worship service previews

 [Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com](mailto: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.



## 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 *Christ Begins*

*This beautiful and powerful Epiphany season hymn was written by a faithful group of WELS pastors. It places us in the sandals of the disciples as they witness the man Christ Jesus being revealed as True God. In his baptism, miracles, transfiguration, and ascension- Christ Begins his work of our salvation and his rule over all things for our good.*

1. We stand and we watch on the bank, wide-eyed. Wa - ter runs and  
2. Ma - ry's whis - per - ing, but it's not the time. Yet six jars are  
3. See the sun out - shined on the hill and hide. Clothes like light - ning  
4. We stand, gath - ered 'round on the moun - tain - side Watch the clo - sing

all heav - en o - pens wide, and a voice like thun - der re - plies.  
filled with the fi - nest wine. Tell me who is this by our side?  
white, hea - ven o - pens wide, and a voice like thun - der re - plies:  
clouds hide him from our eyes; with a voice, u - ni - ted we cry:

Here's my Pro - phet, my Priest, my King; A

light in the dark, Christ steps in. Here's my Sa - vior, my

God, my King. The time has come, Christ be - gins.

PLEASE BE SEATED



## Blessing

*The blessing spoken by the pastor at the close of the service is known as the Aaronic blessing. These words were first given to Aaron and his sons (the priests) by the Lord to bless the people of Israel (Numbers 6:22-27). Just as we began the service in the name of the Triune God, so we also end the service in his name. The blessing is God's assurance that he will go with us as we leave and return to the world to serve him.*

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 #529 *Built on the Rock*

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.**

TODAY’S WORSHIP

He Is There: Baptizing You

January 13, 2019

We are often filled with silent fears, burning guilt and heavy sorrow. We can feel that we are without hope and imagine that God is absent from our lives. We believe that God has forgotten about us. In our uncertainty and vulnerability, we often cry out "Where is God?" During the season of Epiphany, we see exactly where God is in our world – He is in the person of Jesus Christ. We may ask “Where is God”, but through His holy writers of the Gospels, God tells us that He exactly where He is.

Despite our best intentions, we find ourselves caving in to the cravings of our sinful nature. In Baptism, we are renewed and reborn. We no longer have to give in to our sinful cravings. Christ stands in the Jordan River in our place, washing us clean of filth, forgiving, restoring, and saving us through the precious waters and words of Baptism.

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:*

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; 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: John and James Haberland

Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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# Order of Service

HYMN #294 *Baptized into Your Name Most Holy*

PLEASE STAND

## INVOCATION

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

Congregation: Amen.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS 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*

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.

## 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

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.

PLEASE BE SEATED



### Words of Institution

*The pastor uses Christ's words to consecrate—to set apart—the bread and wine. Because they are the words of Jesus, they still accomplish today what they accomplished on Holy Thursday: effecting the real presence of Jesus body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine.*

### Pax Domini

*The pastor proclaims peace to the people through the Pax Domini (Latin for "peace of the Lord"). Again, the worshipers receive absolution and assurance that God's presence and peace are with them through the Sacrament.*



### Agnus Dei

*The Agnus Dei is the last of the liturgical canticles. Its Latin title simply means "Lamb of God." Believers approach the altar of God by the sacrificial substitute who died in our place. We join with the cry of John the Baptist to the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world and grants us mercy and peace. The Christian Church has sung this text before communion for more than thirteen centuries.*



### Invocation

*In the words of the invocation (meaning "to call upon"), the congregation is assured that they are worshiping the true God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It also reminds them of the words used in Holy Baptism—words by which they were adopted into the family of God and made members of his Church.*



### Confession & Forgiveness

*When we approach our holy Lord in worship, it is appropriate that we confess our sins to him and seek his forgiveness. After hearing the Gospel words of forgiveness, the congregation responds with a spoken amen—the congregation verbalizes its faith and expresses agreement with this good news of forgiveness and absolution.*

# The Sacrament of Holy Communion

## Preface

*The preface—words of dialogue between the pastor and the congregation—are some of the oldest in the Christian liturgy, dating back to 200 AD. They serve as a transition from the part of the service centered on the Word to the part centered on the meal that Christ instituted.*



## Holy, Holy, Holy Sanctus

*The Sanctus (coming from the Latin word for “holy”) is the fourth of the five major liturgical canticles. It begins with an echo of the song of the seraphim from Isaiah 6 and continues with the words of the crowds on Palm Sunday. These words, used centuries ago to greet the promised Messiah remind us that Jesus also comes to us today in the Sacrament.*

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 lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. 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'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.

## LORD, HAVE MERCY

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

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 TO GOD

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



## Lord, Have Mercy— Kyrie

*Kyrie is the Greek word for Lord. The Kyrie (“Lord, have mercy”) has been used as a response by the Christian Church since ancient times. It is the first of five major liturgical songs or canticles.*

*In some forms of the Divine Service, the Kyrie comes between the confession and absolution. Here, it is sung as a penitential plea for forgiveness to the Triune God.*

*Coming after the forgiveness of sins, worshipers boldly come before God and make requests, just as believers have always called for God’s help and aid. The words “Lord, have mercy” could also be expressed as “Lord, help us” or “Lord, hear our prayer.”*



## Glory be to God— *Gloria in Excelsis*

*The Gloria—a triumphant song of praise—is the second of the five major liturgical canticles. The focus is on the incarnate Son of God, the one who is the object of our worship and praise. The Gloria encompasses the very heart and substance of the Christian faith when it proclaims Jesus to be the one who takes away the sin of the world.*

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!

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.

## 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.

## 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](https://www.oursaviorbirmingham.com) on your phone or computer*



## Lord's Prayer

*In this prayer, we pray to "Our Father in heaven," reminding us that we are God's chosen and dearly loved children.*

## Offering

*Our offerings are a response to the Lord for his goodness to us, which we heard about in the readings and sermon. They are to be given on a regular basis and be the first fruits of what we receive.*



Prayer of the Church

*In the prayer of the Church, we pray for those in our congregation and for the needs and struggles of God's people around the world.*

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.**

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. 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*

The Word

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

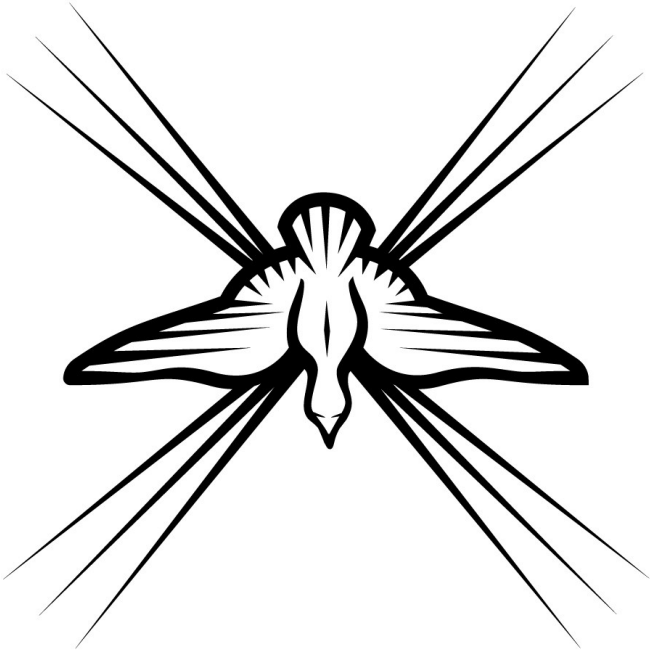
PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; 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



Salutation

*The words of the Salutation between the pastor and the congregation are some of the oldest responses in the liturgy. The pastor conveys his desire that God will be with the congregation and bless them as they hear the Word. By their response the congregation recognizes their pastor will be serving them by reading and preaching the Word.*



Prayer of the Day

*This prayer often focuses on the content of the Gospel or Second Reading, aiding in the unity of thought through the service. Many of the Prayers of the Day have deep roots in the history of the Christian Church.*





**First Reading**

*The first reading generally comes from the Old Testament (except during the Easter season, when it is from the book of Acts) and is chosen to match the emphasis of the Gospel.*

FIRST READING *1 Samuel 16:1-13 (pg. 443)*

*Young David is anointed by Samuel to Shepherd the Lord’s people, Israel. Centuries later would come fulfillment with the anointing of the Christ who would perfectly shepherd the flock of all believers.*

**16** The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”

<sup>2</sup> But Samuel said, “How can I go? Saul will hear about it and kill me.”

The LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’”<sup>3</sup> Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.”

<sup>4</sup> Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, “Do you come in peace?”

<sup>5</sup> Samuel replied, “Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup> When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed stands here before the LORD.”

<sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

<sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The LORD has not chosen this one either.”<sup>9</sup> Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the LORD chosen this one.”<sup>10</sup> Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The LORD has not chosen these.”<sup>11</sup> So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?”

“There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered, “but he is tending the sheep.”

Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.”

<sup>12</sup> So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; he is the one.”

<sup>13</sup> So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

PLEASE STAND

REMEMBRANCE OF HOLY BAPTISM

Holy Baptism is the precious means of grace by which our Father in heaven connects us with Christ in his life, death, and resurrection. The apostle Paul says: “Don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

In Holy Baptism, God takes away our sins and gives new life in Christ our Lord. We solemnly renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways; we confess the gift of faith in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

I ask you: Do you reject the devil along with all his lies and empty promises?

**Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

**Yes, I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son?

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

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

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

Do you intend to continue in this faith, to be diligent in the use of Word and sacrament and in faith and action remain true to God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—as long as you live?

**Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with his grace to life everlasting.

**Amen.**

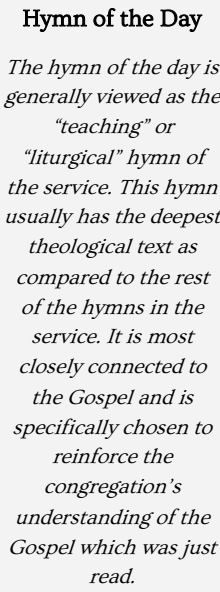


**Creed**

*Creedo*

*After listening to the sermon, the congregation responds by confessing its faith in the triune God. The word creed comes from the Latin word “credo,” which means “I believe.” The creed was originally chanted, making it the third of the five major canticles.*





*The sermon has ancient historical roots. In the Jewish synagogues, commentary followed the readings. The sermon serves as the culmination of the service of the Word that began with the readings. It seeks to instill in the listeners a deeper understanding of the truths contained in God's Word.*

SERMON *Titus 3:4-7*

# REJOICE IN GOD'S GIFTS THROUGH CHRIST!

<sup>4</sup> But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

[illegible]

**Refrain**

God is the Lord, the Lord of heav'n and earth.

God is the Lord, the Lord of all.

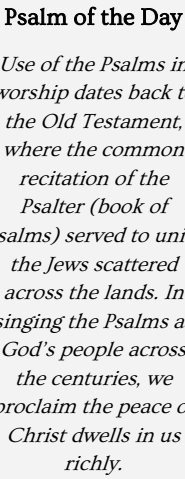
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Refrain.  
**Refrain.**

*God will surely scorn them all; God sits firmly throned on high.  
Soon great wrath on them will fall; Angered, God will then reply,  
“Yet according to my will I have set my king to reign,  
There on Zion’s holy hill, My anointed I maintain. **Refrain.***

God then speaks, "You are my son; Yes, I have begotten you;  
Nations all, yes, ev'ry one, I will give them as they're due.  
Your strong rule will let them learn, Threatened with an iron rod,  
Dash them like a potter's urn, Crush the mighty foes of God. **Refrain.**

*Therefore rulers, kings come near; Hear you, God's holy word.  
Come with rev'rence, come with fear, Hail the son and serve the Lord,  
Lest God's anger be made known, You may perish on your way.  
All are blest who trust the Lord, Yes, supremely blest are they. Refrain.*





### Second Reading

*The Second Reading 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.*

## SECOND READING *Titus 3:4-7 (pg. 1859)*

*Christ and David were anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power. When we were baptized, the Spirit was poured out on us as well. It was a washing that brought rebirth for sin-deadened hearts and spiritual renewal for fleshly minds. We become what God makes us: heirs having the hope of eternal life.*

<sup>4</sup> But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**



PLEASE STAND

## GOSPEL *Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 (pg. 1594)*

The Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 3.

**Glory be to you, O Lord!**

*At his own baptism, Jesus is anointed with the Holy Spirit and power as our Prophet, Priest, and King to the approval of the Father. Just as he who knew no sin was baptized, our baptism is also an anointing by the Spirit, but for the forgiveness of our sins. This is our connection to Christ and his redeeming work.*

<sup>15</sup> The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>21</sup> When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

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, do a craft, and have their faith fed through God’s Word.*



### Gospel

*The Gospel sets the theme for the entire service. The congregation stands for its reading which also serves as a visual reminder that the Gospels are the climax of the Scriptures. The rest of the Old and New Testaments center around who Jesus is and what he did for us as recoded in the Gospels.*