



OurSaviorBirmingham.com

January 14, 2018

Follow the Revealed Savior


The Mystery
REVEALED





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


HELPFUL INFORMATION


- Bathrooms** are located at the end of the hallway as you exit the sanctuary.
- Children’s Activity Sheets** give activities and lessons pertaining to the Scripture lessons for today’s service. Ask an usher at the door into the sanctuary. If your little one needs a moment, there is a speaker and window in our entryway that will allow you to see and hear the service.
- Children’s Church** is a special place for younger children to hear a Bible story, sing some songs, learn a prayer, and do a craft. You can escort your child to our children’s church just before the sermon as noted in the service folder. Children’s Church is located in Room 3 and will be on your right as you exit the sanctuary.
- Holy Communion** will be celebrated as part of this morning’s worship service. Here at Our Savior Lutheran Church, we practice “membership communion” and ask that only members come forward to receive the sacrament. On page 156 in the front of the hymnal, there is a “Personal Preparation for Holy Communion” you can use to prepare to receive Christ’s true body and blood.
- Free WIFI** is available if you use an online Bible or Bible app on your phone or tablet. Look for the “OSLC_Guest” connection to get online!
- Looking for more information?** If you would like to learn more about Our Savior Lutheran Church, You can stay up to date and in the know by connecting with Our Savior online.


 **OurSaviorBirmingham.com** | Video and audio sermons archives, calendar of events, and more!

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 **Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com** | Pastor Kratz’s email

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



PRAYER

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord has refreshed us with His Word. Let us head into this new week equipped for lives of service.

Our mission is to worship God, to spread his Word to our community and to all nations, and to nurture all believers to prepare them for lives of Christian service.

BLESSING

- The Lord bless you and keep you.
- The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
- The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.

Amen.

HYMN | #283 *Speak, O Savior; I am Listening* (v.1,4)

~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).

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 | #367 Christ Be My Leader

SONG OF SIMEON | Nunc Dimittis



Song of Simeon: 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.

TODAY’S WORSHIP

FOLLOW THE REVEALED SAVIOR

January 14, 2018

It is in the Word that we hear the call of God that has in it the secret power of God to give what he commands. He commands: *Believe!* and the Word creates faith. He says, *Follow me!* and the Word creates the desire and the ability to follow him. That he should consider it glorious to call sinners, is that not an amazing thing? That he should attach such power to his Word that we answer the call, is that not a wonder that lasts an eternity for each of us?

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:

Almighty God, you gave your one and only Son to be the light of the world. Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ’s glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and believed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SERVING IN WORSHIP


- Music: Brent Nolte
- Ushers: Doug Lamon, Brent Panell
- Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz
- Church Office: (205) 677-8642
- Cell: (205) 478-6843
- Email: Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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DIVINE SERVICE

HYMN | #770 *O Christ, Who Called the Twelve*



1 O Christ, who called the Twelve To
2 O Christ, who taught the Twelve The
3 O Christ, who sent the Twelve On
4 O Christ, th' a - pos - tles' Lord, The

rise and fol - low you, For -
truth for a - ges sealed, Whose
roads they'd nev - er trod To
mar - tyr's strength and song, The

sak - ing old, fa - mil - iar ways For
words and works a - wak - ened faith, The
serve, to suf - fer, teach, pro - claim The
cru - ci - fied and ris - en King To

ven - tures bold and new: Grant
ways of God re - vealed: In -
near - er reign of God: Send
whom the saints be - long: Though

us to hear your call To
struct us now, we pray, By
us on ways where faith Tran -
gen - er - a - tions pass, Our

risk se - cur - i - ty And,
your em - pow'r - ing Word. True
scends ti - mid - i - ty, Where
trib - ute still we bring, Our

Opening Hymn: This hymn leads us to consider the cost of discipleship and to pray for Jesus' guidance and strength to fulfill his will.

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 (t) 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 (t) 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*



Lamb of God, you

take a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy on us.

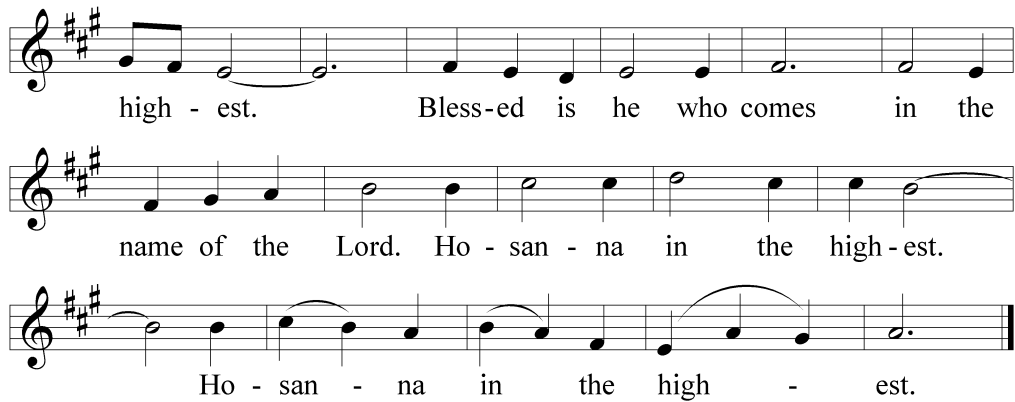
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world, have

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

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

A - men. A - men. A - men.

~Please be seated



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil’s power.

- By his incarnation, he became one with us.
- By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
- By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
- By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

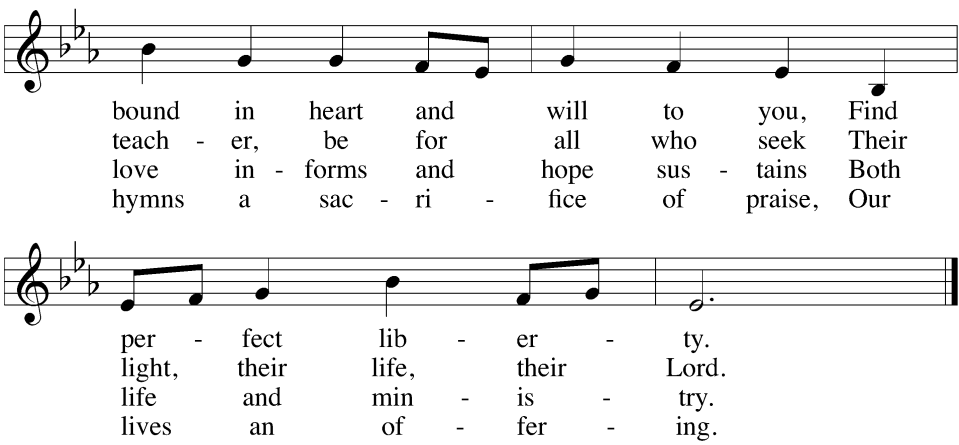
Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ’s body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving: Jesus took bread and “gave thanks.” See Matthew 26:26
Lord’s Prayer: The Lord’s Prayer was given by our Savior to his Church in response to the disciples’ request to be taught to pray. See Matthew 6:9-13. The conclusion to the prayer, also known as the Doxology, was a common conclusion to ancient prayers.



This hymn leads us to consider the cost of discipleship and to pray for Jesus’ guidance and strength to fulfill his will.

INVOCATION

~Please stand

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

Congregation: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,
For sins of habit and sins of choice,
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,
You should cast me away from your presence forever.
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me for Jesus’ sake.

Silence for personal confession and reflection

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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 and Forgiveness of Sins: The use of the keys (the power to forgive sins) is that special power and right which Christ gave to his church on earth: to forgive the sins of penitent sinners. See John 20:21-23.

LORD, HAVE MERCY | *Kyrie, eleison*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord

Lord, have mercy.

For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord of life, live in us that we may life for you.

Amen.

GLORY BE TO GOD | *Gloria in Excelsis*

Lord, Have Mercy: “Kyrie” is the Greek word for “Lord.” The expression “Lord have mercy” is one of the oldest worship responses in the Christian church.
Hymn of Praise: Purified of our sin, we respond with a song of praise, based on the angel’s song at Jesus’ birth. “Glory to God in the Highest” has been a Christian song of worship since the fourth century.

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 has called us to be his own so that we may live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. 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*

Preface: The opening words of the communion liturgy mark the beginning of the Sacrament section of the service and lift the worshipers’ hearts in praise. The opening sentences are among the oldest in the Christian liturgy.
Holy, Holy, Holy: “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.

NICENE CREED | *Credo*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

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

~Please be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING

This is the moment in our worship when members and friends of Our Savior Lutheran respond to God’s good news with gifts to support his saving work of sharing the Gospel. If you are a guest with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate.

If you would like to help Our Savior with this important mission, there are several ways to make a tax-deductible contribution (the latter two provide options for either one-time or recurring gifts):

- Place your offering in the plate*
- Use the "Tithe.ly" app on your phone (iOS or Android)*
- Click on “Give” at OurSaviorBirmingham.com on your phone or computer*

Confession of Faith: Public confession is faith’s response to God’s saving Word. Christian’s composed the Nicene Creed in the fourth century to defend the Bible’s teachings that both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are true God, equal to the Father in one eternal, undivided Trinity.

** The original text here reads “catholic,” a word meaning “universal.” The Church consists of all believers in heaven and earth, of every time in history.*

Prayer of the Church: The Lord invites our prayers and asks that Christians pray for many people and circumstances.

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

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the

Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a -

way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat - ed at the right hand of God the Fa - ther: re -

ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.

a tempo

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est and

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

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the

Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est and

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

THE WORD

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

Almighty God, you gave your one and only Son to be the light of the world. Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and believed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

~Please be seated



The Word: We sit at the feet of Jesus, like Mary did, to hear the Word (Luke 10:42). Here is time for meditating, strengthening, forgiveness, instruction, and response.

Salutation: *This greeting has deep roots in Christian worship and marks the beginning of the Word and the Sacrament sections of the service.*

Prayer of the Day: Following an ancient outline, the prayer of the day asks for one specific blessing. This prayer changes each Sunday, according to the Bible readings for that Sunday.

HYMN OF THE DAY | #86 *The Only Son from Heaven*SERMON | *2 Thessalonians 2:13-17*

THE LORD CALLS YOU

~Please stand

After the sermon, the congregation sings:

Cre - ate in me a pure heart, O God,
and re - new a stead-fast spir - it with - in me.
Do not cast me from your pres - ence or take your
Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
Re - store to me the joy, the joy of
your sal - va - tion and grant me a will - ing
spir - it to sus - tain me.

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

Sermon: *The Sermon is the Word of God, proclaiming the living voice of the Gospel to God's people. The preacher is the appointed representative who illuminates the Scripture for the congregation and applies it to our contemporary situation. He is neither lecturer nor entertainer, but a link through whom the Holy Spirit brings law and gospel to bear upon the hearts and minds of the worshiper and enlivens their faith and life.*

The Gospel according to St. John, chapter 1.

Glory be to you, O Lord.

The Savior’s power compelled Philip and Nathaniel to follow him

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.”

⁴⁴ Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

⁴⁶ “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked.

“Come and see,” said Philip.

⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”

⁴⁸ “How do you know me?” Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.”

⁴⁹ Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.”

⁵⁰ Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” ⁵¹ He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man.”

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.

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.

The Lord’s persistent call to Samuel

The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions.

² One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. ³ The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴ Then the LORD called Samuel.

Samuel answered, “Here I am.” ⁵ And he ran to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.”

But Eli said, “I did not call; go back and lie down.” So he went and lay down.

⁶ Again the LORD called, “Samuel!” And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.”

“My son,” Eli said, “I did not call; go back and lie down.”

⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

⁸ A third time the LORD called, “Samuel!” And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.”

Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹ So Eli told Samuel, “Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.’ ” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰ The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, “Samuel! Samuel!”

Then Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”


The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.


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.

The leader will sing the first verse of the song.

The congregation is invited to join in singing verses 2-5.




1. O God, you search me and you know me.
2. You know my rest - ing and my ris - ing.
3. Be - fore a word is on my tongue, Lord,
4. Al - though your Spir - it is up - on me,
5. For you cre - at - ed me and shaped me,



1. All my thoughts lie o - pen to your gaze.
2. You dis - cern my pur - pose from a - far,
3. You have known its mean - ing through and through.
4. Still I search for shel - ter from your light.
5. Gave me life with - in my moth - er's womb.



1. When I walk or lie down you are be - fore me:
2. And with love ev - er - last - ing you be - siege me:
3. You are with me be - yond my un - der - stand - ing:
4. There is no - where on earth I can es - cape you:
5. For the won - der of who I am, I praise you:



1. Ev - er the mak - er and keep - er of my days.
2. In ev - 'ry mo - ment of life or death, you are.
3. God of my pres - ent, my past and fu - ture, too.
4. E - ven the dark - ness is ra - diant in your sight.
5. Safe in your hands, all cre - a - tion is made new.

Text: Based on Psalm 139. Text and music © 1992, Bernadette Farrell.
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Psalms: The *Psalms* 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.

The Lord calls through the power of the gospel

¹³ But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as firstfruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. ¹⁴ He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁵ So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter.

¹⁶ May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, ¹⁷ encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | *Isaiah* 49:3

~Please stand



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music: Richard Proulx, © 1975, GIA Publications, Inc.

Refrain

He said to me, “You are my servant in whom I will display my splendor.”

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.

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