



OurSaviorBirmingham.com

WHERE
IS GOD?



WHERE IS GOD?

HE IS STRENGTHENING 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.

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

 [OurSaviorBham](https://www.facebook.com/OurSaviorBham) | Daily Bible passage, weekly video worship service previews, and upcoming events

 [OurSaviorBham](https://www.instagram.com/OurSaviorBham) | Daily Bible passage, event pictures, and church pictures

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

 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.



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

PLEASE STAND

PRAYER

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

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

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.

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.

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).

TODAY’S WORSHIP

Where is God? He is Strengthening You January 20, 2019

When sorrow burdens our hearts, worries pester our minds, and the world simply scoffs – where in the world is God? Our series this Epiphany season will show our God exactly where he is, and where he is found.

As far as miracles go, changing water into wine at a wedding party doesn’t seem to be all that important. Yet there is comfort for us that Jesus chose to reveal His extraordinary power for the first time in a very ordinary situation. There comes a time for each of us when the wine runs out. Yet we have a Savior who cares enough to help us and strengthen us in both the ordinary and extraordinary issues of life.

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

Ushers: Keith Gammon, Micah Roberson

Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz

Church Office: (205) 677-8642
Cell: (205) 478-6843
Email: Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Cover Art by
- Artwork by Ian M. Welch and Corissa Nelson. © 2012 Ian M. Welch. © 2017 Corissa Nelson. All Rights Reserved. (paramentics.com / corissanelsonart.com)
- Scripture is taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION © NIV® ©1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-702194:
- Service of the Word, © 1992 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
- Gloria—Jesus the Compassion of God, David Haas. © 1999 GIA Publications. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
- “I Will Praise Your Name,” Psalm 145 David Haas. © 1983 GIA Publications. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Order of Service

HYMN #91 *The Star Proclaims the King Is Here*

Greeting

This blessing from 2 Corinthians 13:14 reminds us of the foundation of worship: God’s grace. He loves us because of Jesus and we have fellowship with God and each other because of the faith the Holy Spirit gives us. The congregation responds by praying the same blessing on their pastor.

The Confession and Forgiveness of Sins

Our God is a holy God, and we are unholy sinners. Before we meet our God, our status before him must change – or he would destroy us. We confess our sins, trusting God’s promise to forgive us (See 1 John 1:9). Our Lord wants to forgive our sins. He sent Jesus to make us “at one” (atonement) with God by dying on the cross for our sins. The pastor makes the sign of the cross to remind us we are forgiven only because Jesus died on the cross.

PLEASE STAND

GREETING

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

Congregation: And also with you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS

We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

Silence for personal confession and reflection

God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

PLEASE STAND

APOSTLES’ CREED

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

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.

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.

PLEASE BE SEATED

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Throughout the prayer, when the leader says, “...let us pray to the Lord:” the congregation responds by saying, “Lord, have mercy.”

...Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

OFFERING

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

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

Place your offering in the plate

Use the "Tithe.ly" app on your phone (iOS or Android)

Click on “Give” at OurSaviorBirmingham.com on your phone or computer

Confession of Faith

We respond to our Shepherd’s voice by confessing what we believe concerning our God and all he’s done for us.

Prayer of the Church

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

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.

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

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.

SERMON *John 2:1-11*

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there,² and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.³ When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

⁴“Dear woman, why do you involve me?”
Jesus replied. “My time has not yet come.”

⁵ His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

⁶ Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

⁷ Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim.

⁸Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.”

They did so,⁹ and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside¹⁰ and said, “Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.”

¹¹ This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

NOTES:

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 Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord!

The image displays a musical score for a vocal part, likely a soprano or alto, in G major and 4/4 time. The score is divided into three systems. The first system contains the lyrics "Glo-ry to God in the high - est!". The second system contains "Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God! Glo-ry to God". The third system is marked "Last time to Coda" and contains the lyrics "in the high-est! Peace to his peo - ple on earth!". Below the third system is a separate section labeled "Coda" with the lyrics "Peace on earth!". The music is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

Glo-ry to God in the high - est!

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God! Glo-ry to God

Last time to Coda ☺

in the high-est! Peace to his peo - ple on earth!

☺ Coda

Peace on earth!

Music: *Mass, Jesus, the Compassion of God*, David Haas; © 1991, 1999, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we

5
wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

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.

Verse 2 (followed by refrain)

Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,

6 Lamb of God, you take a - way the

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

16 you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.

Verse 3 (followed by refrain repeated twice)

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

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

10 Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

⁶ Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

⁷ Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim.

⁸ Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.”

They did so, ⁹ and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰ and said, “Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.”

¹¹ This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.

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.

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

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.

SECOND READING *Ephesians 3:14-21 (pg. 1820)*

These words bring comfort and confidence to the heart of all believers. As his bride, rooted in his love, we can only begin to grasp the immeasurable width, length, height and depth of his love.

We join in echoing Paul’s prayer: to him be glory.

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶ I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PLEASE STAND

GOSPEL *John 2:1-11 (pg. 1648)*

The Gospel according to St. John, chapter 2.

Glory be to you, O Lord!

Jesus reveals himself as true God and the Promised Messiah by the simple miracle he works at a wedding. By miracles Christ strengthens the faith of his followers in him as Son of God and Savior of the world. “And his disciples put their faith in him” (Jn 2:11).

2 On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, ² and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³ When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They have no more wine.”

⁴ “Dear woman, why do you involve me?” Jesus replied. “My time has not yet come.”

⁵ His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

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. Because God has forgiven us, we have a special bond with our Lord and with each other as Christians. Pastor and congregation express this bond of fellowship with a blessing for each other – that the Holy Spirit would bless you as you hear God’s Word and that he would bless the pastor to preach God’s Word with power.

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.

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.

FIRST READING *Isaiah 62:1-5 (pg. 1159)*


The prophet Isaiah in picturesque language prophesies concerning the glory of “Zion,” the church of God, as it will be in the time of the new covenant. (The new covenant is the time after Jesus appears and forgives all sin.) The glory of this church will shine forth in its message of salvation to all. God will be in fellowship with his church as a bridegroom is with his bride

62 For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent,
for Jerusalem’s sake I will not remain quiet,
till her righteousness shines out like the dawn,
her salvation like a blazing torch.
² The nations will see your righteousness,
and all kings your glory;
you will be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will bestow.
³ You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD’s hand,
a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
⁴ No longer will they call you Deserted,
or name your land Desolate.
But you will be called Hephzibah,
and your land Beulah;
for the LORD will take delight in you,
and your land will be married.
⁵ As a young man marries a maiden,
so will your sons marry you;
as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride,
so will your God rejoice over you.

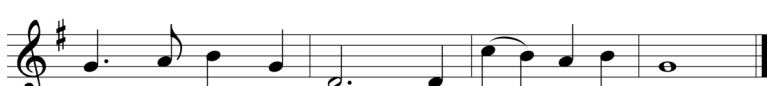
The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY *Psalms 145*



I will praise your name, my King and my God.



I will praise your name, my King and my God.

Copyright © 1983 by GIA Publications, Inc. • All Rights Reserved

*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.*

Refrain.
Refrain.

*I will give glory my God and King, and I will bless your name forever.
Ev’ry day I will bless and praise your name forever. **Refrain.***

*The Lord is full of grace and mercy, He is kind and slow to anger
He is good in all his works and gull of compassion. **Refrain.***

*Let all your works give you thanks O Lord, and let all the faithful bless you.
Let them speak of your might O Lord, the glory of your kingdom. . **Refrain.***

*The Lord is faithful in all his words, and always near, His name is holy.
He lifts up all those who fall, He raises up the lowly. **Refrain.***

Psalm

The Psalm is the most ancient part of our worship service. While most of our liturgy is 1,800 years old, Jews have been singing Psalms in worship for 3,000 years.