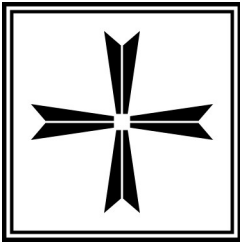




**GOD DELIVERS
HIS CHRISTMAS GIFT**

*FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 28, 2014*



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

DECEMBER 28, 2014 - FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

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: Rhoda Holbrook

Ushers: Roger Benz, Bob Holbrook

Service Leader: Mr. Roger Benz

Pastor Ben Kratz

Church Office: (205) 677-8642

Cell: (205) 478-6843

Email: Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY



At Christmas, God gave a gift to the entire world, the gift of his Son. However, many in the world sadly did not and still do not receive him. For many, Christmas is already an afterthought and its true meaning is far from their minds. What a blessing and what a miracle that God has brought this gift to our eyes, our ears, and placed it in our hearts. Like Simeon and Anna of old, the peace that God delivered at Christmas rules in our hearts by his grace.

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:

Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming deliver us from the corruption of our sin and transform us into the likeness of his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one 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.

Looking for more information? If you would like to learn more about Our Savior Lutheran Church, check out our information table in the entryway, speak with Pastor Kratz after the service, send him an email at: Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com, or call the church office at (205) 677-8642.

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 all fifty of the United States, as well as Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and over 25 countries through world mission work.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

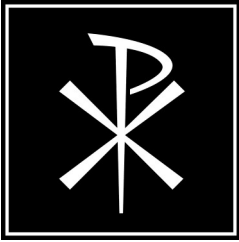
- **Artwork** by Ian M. Welch. © 2012 Ian M. Welch. All Rights Reserved.

Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-702194:

- **Service of the Word,** © 2006 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

- **Melodic Gloria,** Tune by James J. Chepponis. ©1986 by GIA Publications. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

- **Scripture** is taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION © NIV® ©1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



SERVICE OF THE WORD

OPENING HYMN

#38

*FROM HEAVEN ABOVE TO EARTH I COME
VERSES 1-4,15*

~PLEASE STAND

GREETING

Leader: In the name of God the Father,

Congregation: **who sent His only Son Jesus to us.**

L In the name of God the Son,

C **whose birth of the virgin Mary we celebrate this morning.**

L In the name of God the Holy Spirit,

C **who inspired the prophets concerning Jesus Christ.**

L In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

HYMN

#37

*ONCE AGAIN MY HEART REJOICES
VERSES 1-2*

CHRISTMAS DECLARATION

L The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

C **The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.**

L Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

C **We have seen the glory of the Christ, the glory of the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.**

L For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C **In him was life, and that life was the light of men.**

ONCE AGAIN MY HEART REJOICES
VERSES 4-5

CONFESSION OF SINS

L As we worship today, God's Word reminds us:

C **For every living soul belongs to me...The soul who sins is the one who will die.**

Ezekiel 18:4

L We confess our sins before God and each other, clinging to the certainty of forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Silence for personal confession

L Lord God,

C **We confess that we have not appreciated the grace You have poured out on us through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. We have focused on our feelings about the season and the gifts we have given and received. So often we have not valued the sacrifice You made in sending Your Son to earth to die for us. Because we have sinned against You and our neighbor, we deserve all the condemnation of the Law You gave through Moses. For the sake of Jesus forgive us, renew us, and lead us to reflect the grace You have given us in how we live out each day.**

L See, your Savior comes! See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.

Isaiah 62:11

C **Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.**

Luke 2:11

L When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared,⁵ 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,⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:4-7

Holy people, redeemed of the Lord: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

This greeting has deep roots in Christian worship.

L The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

L Let us pray:

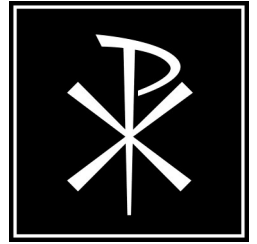
Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming deliver us from the corruption of our sin and transform us into the likeness of his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

~PLEASE BE SEATED



THE WORD



FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 45:20-25 (PG. 1133)

*Some follow the Savior
God, others follow gods
of stone.*

²⁰ "Gather together and come;
assemble, you fugitives from the nations.
Ignorant are those who carry about idols of wood,
who pray to gods that cannot save.

²¹ Declare what is to be, present it—
let them take counsel together.
Who foretold this long ago,
who declared it from the distant past?
Was it not I, the LORD?
And there is no God apart from me,
a righteous God and a Savior;
there is none but me.

²² "Turn to me and be saved,
all you ends of the earth;
for I am God, and there is no other.

²³ By myself I have sworn,
my mouth has uttered in all integrity
a word that will not be revoked:
Before me every knee will bow;
by me every tongue will swear.

²⁴ They will say of me, 'In the LORD alone
are righteousness and strength.' "
All who have raged against him
will come to him and be put to shame.

²⁵ But in the LORD all the descendants of Israel
will be found righteous and will exult.

SECOND LESSON

COLOSSIANS 3:12-17 (PG. 1834)

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

¹²Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

VERSE OF THE DAY

REFRAIN

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

L Refrain.

C Refrain.

L In the past, God spoke through the prophets; Now he speaks to us through his Son.

C Refrain.

GOSPEL

LUKE 2:25-40 (PG. 1591)

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

Simeon and Anna see the Lord's salvation.

~PLEASE STAND

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

²⁹ "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you now dismiss your servant in peace.
³⁰ For my eyes have seen your salvation,
³¹ which you have prepared in the sight of all people,
³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

³³ The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶ There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

After the Gospel, the congregation responds:

☩ 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.

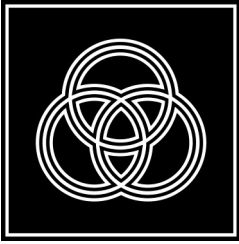
HYMN OF THE DAY

#41

LET ALL TOGETHER PRAISE OUR GOD

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

SERMON



*Public confession is
faith's response to
God's saving Word.*

APOSTLES CREED

~PLEASE STAND

C 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

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.*

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.**

~PLEASE BE SEATED

LET US ALL WITH GLADSOME VOICE

PRAYER

~PLEASE STAND

L 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.

C Amen.

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

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

BLESSING

L Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

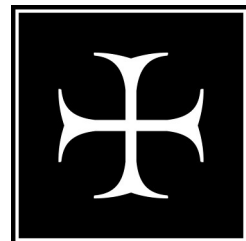
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.

C Amen.

~PLEASE BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN

REJOICE, REJOICE THIS HAPPY MORN

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).



OURSAVIORBIRMINGHAM.COM