



REVEALED...TO UNBELIEVERS

February 3, 2013 - *Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany*



A Place to Belong

Pastor Ben Kratz

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Those who serve:

Music / Sound: Roger Benz

Ushers: Roger Benz, Shannon Sikes

FEBRUARY 3, 2013

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

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 Welcome card found in our entryway. You can place it in the offering plate or hand it to Pastor or an usher as you leave.

- ☞ Restrooms are located at the end of the hallway as you exit the sanctuary.
- ☞ Your children are always welcome at Our Savior. If your little one is having a difficult morning, there is a speaker in the entrance hallway.



TODAY'S THEME:

JESUS IS REVEALED... TO UNBELIEVERS

Our human inclination is to listen without faith. This can only lead us to the brow of a cliff and throwing Jesus out of our lives (listen for that in our Gospel lesson today!). But the Savior of the nations comes with his gracious words of redemption and membership in his body. The Word of the Lord is proclaimed through the revelation of his Anointed One. In him faith is rooted, love flourishes, and salvation is known from generation to generation. Though some may reject him and his message, the Lord calls us to preach the gospel clearly and faithfully.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship you in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that you would open my heart to the preaching of your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of his name. Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

WELCOME FROM PASTOR KRATZ

OPENING HYMN: #283 *Speak O Savior, I Am Listening*

PLEASE STAND

GREETING

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

(C)ongregation: And also with you.

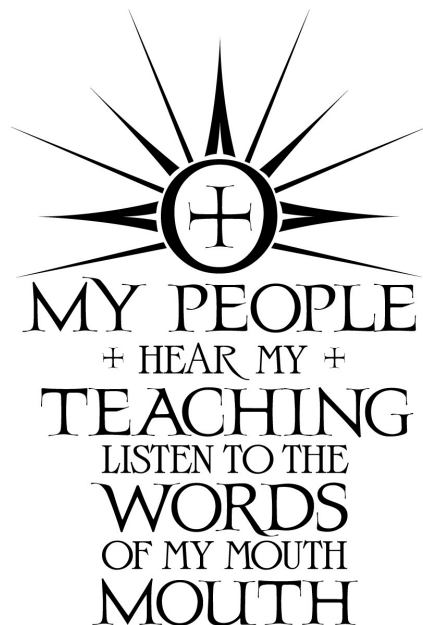
CONFESSION OF SINS

L: 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.

C: 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.

L: 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.

C: Amen.



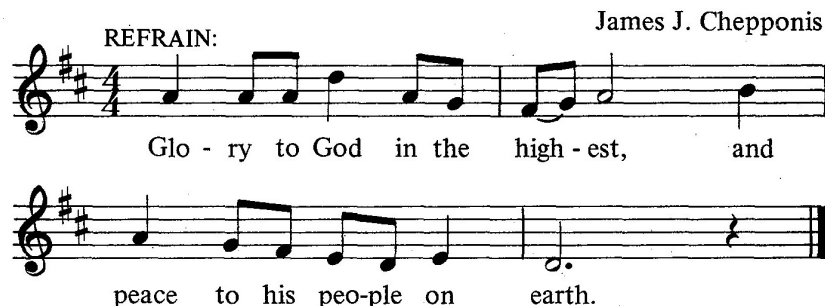
PRAYER AND PRAISE

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

GLORY TO GOD ~ *Gloria in Excelsis*

James J. Chepponis

REFRAIN:



The musical notation is for a refrain in 4/4 time, key of D major. It consists of two staves. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the refrain: 'Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line: 'peace to his peo-ple on earth.' The melody is simple and melodic, suitable for a choir or congregation.

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Refrain sung by the choir.

Refrain sung by the congregation.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father. Refrain.

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you, we praise you for glory. Refrain.

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer, receive our prayer. Refrain.*

*For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Refrain (sung twice).*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray:

Lord God, you know that we are surrounded by many dangers and that we often stumble and fall. Strengthen us in body and mind, and bring us safely through all temptations. We pray this and all things through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

PLEASE BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON: I Kings 17:7-16 (Pg. 555)

When rejected by God's people, Elijah is taken care of by God through a Gentile widow

⁷ Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. ⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to him: ⁹ "Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food." ¹⁰ So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, "Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?" ¹¹ As she was going to get it, he called, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread."

¹² "As surely as the LORD your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die."

¹³ Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴ For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land.' "

¹⁵ She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. ¹⁶ For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 78 (selected verses)

- ¹ O my people, hear my teaching;
listen to the words of my mouth.
- ² I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old—
- ³ what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us.
- ⁴ We will not hide them from their children;
we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD,
his power, and the wonders he has done.
- ⁵ He decreed statutes for Jacob
and established the law in Israel,
which he commanded our forefathers
to teach their children,
- ⁶ so the next generation would know them,
even the children yet to be born,
and they in turn would tell their children.
- ⁷ Then they would put their trust in God
and would not forget his deeds
but would keep his commands.

PLEASE STAND

GOSPEL: Luke 4:20-32 (Pg. 1596)

Jesus was rejected for proclaiming the truth

²⁰Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, ²¹and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

²²All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.

²³Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself! Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.' "

²⁴"I tell you the truth," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. ²⁶Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. ²⁷And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian."

²⁸All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. ²⁹They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him down the cliff. ³⁰But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

³¹Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath began to teach the people. ³²They were amazed at his teaching, because his message had authority.

After the Gospel, the congregation responds:

C: 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 next hymn, parents may choose to escort their young child(ren) to our children's church, where they will hear a Bible story, sing some songs, learn a prayer, and do a craft.



HYMN OF THE DAY: #395 Seek Where You May to Find a Way

SERMON: *Luke 4:20-32*

PLEASE STAND

APOSTLES' CREED

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

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

The members of Our Savior Lutheran Congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. If you are a guest today, you need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.

PLEASE STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

C: **We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.**

L: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

C: **We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.**

L: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

C: **Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.**

L: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

L: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

L: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

PLEASE BE SEATED

HYMN: #203 *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast*

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 (t) give you peace.

C: Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN: #293 *God's Word is Our Great Heritage*

PRAYER AFTER WORSHIP

Almighty and merciful God, I have again worshiped in your presence and received both forgiveness for my many sins and the assurance of your love in Christ Jesus. I thank you for this undeserved grace and ask you to keep me in faith until, with all your saints, I inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.



About Our Savior...

Our Savior Lutheran Church is a growing church that serves the southern neighborhoods of Birmingham. We are a Christian church that is looking forward to serving people with God's Word.

Our Savior's message is a wonderful message for you. Our theme is "**A Place to Belong**." That means that because of our Savior's love for you, you belong to him. You belong to his family. His love will always outweigh the wrongs you have done and the sadness you have had! Our loving God always loves us more.

If you are new to the area or looking for a church home, accept our invitation to meet our pastor and find out more about us. Besides weekly worship, we also offer Bible class to individuals and groups of all ages, Christian counseling, and literature. Please come and worship with us again! Think of this as your community church, and know that you are welcome to join us here anytime.

We hope you find Our Savior "A Place to Belong!"

Benjamin Kratz, Pastor

(205) 478-6843 [cell]

(205) 618-9065 [home]

Announcements

- ☞ **Welcome to guests and visitors!** We are glad that you are here, and hope that you will join us again soon!
- ☞ **Spiritual Growth Opportunities:**
 - Sunday Bible Class: *Sunday mornings at 9:00 am.* God promises the believer that he will face trials in life. Join us as the Apostle Paul encourages the Thessalonians and you and me in our trials with the comfort of the Gospel. Our Sunday Bible class will be studying 1-2 Thessalonians.
 - Sunday School: *Sunday mornings at 9:00 am.* Our Sunday school, which uses the award-winning Christ-Light curriculum, offers Bible lessons for children from nursery age through grade 12.
 - Wednesday Bible Class: *Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm.* Join us as we study Paul's letter to the Philippians and see not only the joy the believer has in life, but learn to live a life worthy of the Gospel.
 - Bible Class for Beginners: *Wednesday evenings at 8:00 pm.* Don't feel like you know enough about the Bible to attend a regular Bible class? Join us for this class designed just for you! We will be taking a look at some of the important chapters of the Bible to learn not only the truths of God's Word, but how it all fits together!
- ☞ **FaithBuilders Class:** Faithbuilders is for people interested in becoming members at Our Savior, or for people just looking to build their faith through the study of the basic teachings of the Bible. Classes are held on Tuesday nights at 7 pm. If you would like to attend, contact Pastor Kratz. Childcare is available. Everyone is welcome!
- ☞ **Looking to serve?** Were you greeted by a warm smile as you entered the service today? Would you like to bless someone with your smile on an upcoming Sunday, or put yourself to work in other ways make our guests feel welcome? Then why not serve as an usher or greeter next week? For most of these, just show up about 10:00 am and be ready to smile, shake someone's hand or help serve some coffee and snacks. Contact Pastor Kratz at Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com or 677-8642 for more information about serving opportunities.
- ☞ **Keep in Your Prayers This Week.** God promises us that the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. He also tells us to pray for one another. Hearing God's powerful promises, confidently bring these requests to the throne of our heavenly Father: *(If you have a prayer request, please contact Pastor Kratz.)*
 - The sister of Clare Newman, who is undergoing treatment for cancer. Clare is one of the students in our Campus Ministry at Alabama.
 - The families who care for their loved ones, as they quietly bear heavy burdens of love and concern.
- ☞ **Invite a Friend to Church!** Here are the themes for the worship services the coming weeks. Use them to invite a friend, a relative, a neighbor to come with you saying, "Our worship this week is all about..."
 - 2/10: The Lord of Glory is REVEALED—The Transfiguration of Our Lord (with Branches Band)
 - 2/13: Ash Wednesday: Lent with Luther
 - 2/17: Lent is a time for giving up sin
- ☞ **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.

- ☞ **Acknowledgements:**

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This Week at Our Savior

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	FaithBuilders 7:00 pm	Wednesday Night Bible Class 7:00 pm Bible Class for Beginners 8:00 pm	Connor Keel's Birthday			Sunday School/ Bible Class 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Canvassing 12:00 pm

1 Year Chronological Bible Reading: Week #6

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	FaithBuilders 7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Lent Dinner & Devotion 6 pm / 7 pm		Bumgardner's Anniversary		Sunday School/ Bible Class 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am

1 Year Chronological Bible Reading: Week #7

☞ Upcoming Schedule

Cleaning: February: Church Family B (Benz / Copeland / Demasi / Jones / Roberson / Wade / Rosser)
 Flowers: 2/3: OPEN
 2/10: Pam Copeland
 2/17: Pam Copeland
 Nursery / Children's Church: 2/3: Hallie Keel
 2/10: Miriam Roberson
 2/17: Emily Kratz



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

