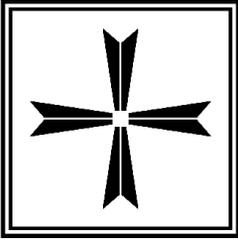




I AM THE VINE

*SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 23, 2014*



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

FEBRUARY 23, 2014 - SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

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, Roger Benz

Ushers: Bob Holbrook, Erik Roberson

Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz

Church Office: (205) 677-8642

Cell: (205) 478-6843

Email: Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY



Today Jesus' words about himself remind us where to turn when we are worn out and weary. As we strive to live as children of God in a world under the influence of the devil, we must remain connected to Christ. Apart from him we can do nothing. Connected to him we will bear much fruit. To those whose strength is sapped Jesus says: I am the vine.

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:

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FOR THE CHILDREN

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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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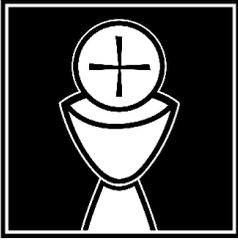
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DIVINE SERVICE

OPENING HYMN

#283

SPEAK, O SAVIOR; I AM LISTENING

~PLEASE STAND

INVOCATION

The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshipers of their baptisms.

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

(C)ongregation: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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).

L: 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.

C: 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

L: 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.

C: Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY ~ KYRIE

L: 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.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: 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.

C: Christ, have mercy.

L: 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.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Amen.

"Kyrie" is the Greek word for "Lord." The expression "Lord, have mercy" is one of the oldest responses in the Christian church.

GLORY BE TO GOD ~ GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



1 All glo - ry be to God on high!
2 Our grate - ful thanks to you we bring,
3 O Lamb of God, to you we pray.
4 You, Christ, are ho - ly— Lord a - lone;



Your name, O Lord, we glo - ri - fy;
For your great glo - ry, heav'n - ly King,
You take all hu - man sin a - way.
The Fath - er's glo - ry you made known.



We praise you for your peace and grace,
For all, O Fath - er, you have done
Have mer - cy, Lord; re - ceive our prayer;
We by your Spir - it sing a - gain:



Your fav - or toward our fal - len race.
Through Je - sus Christ, your on - ly Son.
From God's right hand, your mer - cy share.
"All glo - ry be to God!" A - men.

Christians praise God by proclaiming the great things he has done to accomplish our rescue from sin. "Glory to God in the Highest" has been a Christian song of worship since the fourth century.

SALUTATION

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

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray:

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through Jesus Christ, your Son, 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 5:1-7 (PG. 1065)



*The LORD laments
that his people had
disconnected
themselves from the
vine and produced
only bad fruit.*

- 5** I will sing for the one I love
a song about his vineyard:
My loved one had a vineyard
on a fertile hillside.
- ² He dug it up and cleared it of stones
and planted it with the choicest vines.
He built a watchtower in it
and cut out a winepress as well.
Then he looked for a crop of good grapes,
but it yielded only bad fruit.
- ³ "Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and men of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.
- ⁴ What more could have been done for my vineyard
than I have done for it?
When I looked for good grapes,
why did it yield only bad?
- ⁵ Now I will tell you
what I am going to do to my vineyard:
I will take away its hedge,
and it will be destroyed;
I will break down its wall,
and it will be trampled.
- ⁶ I will make it a wasteland,
neither pruned nor cultivated,
and briers and thorns will grow there.
I will command the clouds
not to rain on it."
- ⁷ The vineyard of the LORD Almighty
is the house of Israel,
and the men of Judah
are the garden of his delight.
And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed;
for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

Those connected to the word bear fruit while the wicked wither away.

Refrain



Bless-ed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

Refrain

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain



SECOND LESSON

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11 (PG. 1825)

³I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Paul is confident that as Christians stay connected to Christ they will bear the fruit of righteousness.



GOSPEL

JOHN 15:1-8 (PG. 1676)

~PLEASE STAND

L: The Gospel according to John, chapter 15.

C: Glory be to you, O Lord.

15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. ⁸This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

~PLEASE BE SEATED

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

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

Those connected to the vine have a constant supply of life and strength.

Children are invited to assemble at the front for a children's message.

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

#461 VS. 1,2 AND 4

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

FROM ETERNITY, O GOD

SERMON

JOHN 15:1-8

HYMN

#750

CHRIST, THE WORD OF GOD INCARNATE

~PLEASE STAND

Christ, the shoot that springs tri - um - phant From the stump of
Jes - se's tree; Christ, true vine, you nur - ture branch - es
To bear fruit a - bun - dant - ly. Graft us in - to
you, O Sav - ior; Prune our hearts so we re - main
Fruit - ful branch - es in your vine - yard Till e - ter - nal
life we gain.

~PLEASE BE SEATED

NICENE CREED

~PLEASE STAND

C: 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

OFFERING

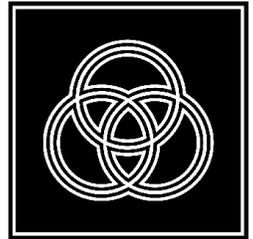
CHOIR ANTHEM

#342

AMID THE WORLD'S BLEAK WILDERNESS

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

~PLEASE STAND

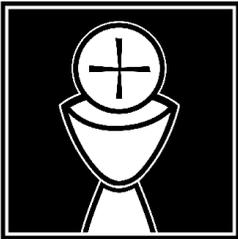


Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word. Christian's composed the Nicene Creed in the fourth century to defend the Bible's teachings that both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are true God, equal to the Father in one eternal, undivided Trinity.

** 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.*

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

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



THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

PREFACE

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

L: 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 came as the Light of the world so that the world may have light and life through him. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

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

"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.

1 O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How tru - ly blest is
might, Your glo - ry, earth and heav - en In
he Who in God's name is com - ing To
count - less ways re - cite. Ho - san - na! Come and
set his peo - ple free! He comes to bring sal -
save us, Lord God of hosts on high, And
va - tion And with his blood out - poured, De -
in your grace and mer - cy Re - ceive our fer - vent cry.
liv - er us from bond - age—Ho - san - na, might - y Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: 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.

*Jesus took bread
and "gave thanks"
(Matthew 26:26).*

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.

C: 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.**

THIS IS MY
BODY
THIS IS MY
BLOOD



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

As he speaks the Words of Institution, the pastor both proclaims the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's use. The sign of the cross reminds us of Christ's death.

L: 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."

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD ~ AGNUS DEI

Jesus is God's Lamb (Agnus Dei), who was offered as a sacrifice for sin once for all.

1 O Lord, now let your serv - ant De - part in peace, as - sured:
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All glo - ry to the Son,

For I have seen your prom - ised In - car - nate, sav - ing Word—
 All glo - ry to the Spir - it, For - ev - er three in one;

A Light that will en - light - en All gloom where
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is now, shall

Gen - tiles dwell; The bril - liant, crown - ing glo - ry
 ev - er be, God's tri - une name re - sound - ing

Of those in Is - ra - el!
 Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

~PLEASE BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

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.



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.



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.

THANKSGIVING

SONG OF SIMEON ~ NUNC DIMITTIS

~PLEASE STAND



1 O Lord, now let your serv - ant De - part in peace, as - sured:
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All glo - ry to the Son,



For I have seen your prom - ised In - car - nate, sav - ing Word—
All glo - ry to the Spir - it, For - ev - er three in one;



A Light that will en - light - en All gloom where
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is now, shall



Gen - tiles dwell; The bril - liant, crown - ing glo - ry
ev - er be, God's tri - une name re - sound - ing



Of those in Is - ra - el!
Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

L: 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.

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.

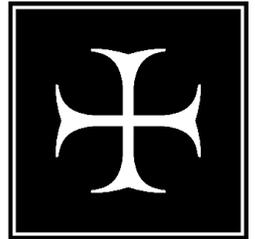
The Lord bless you and keep you.

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



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).

CLOSING HYMN

#497

THIS IS MY WILL





OURSAVIORBIRMINGHAM.COM