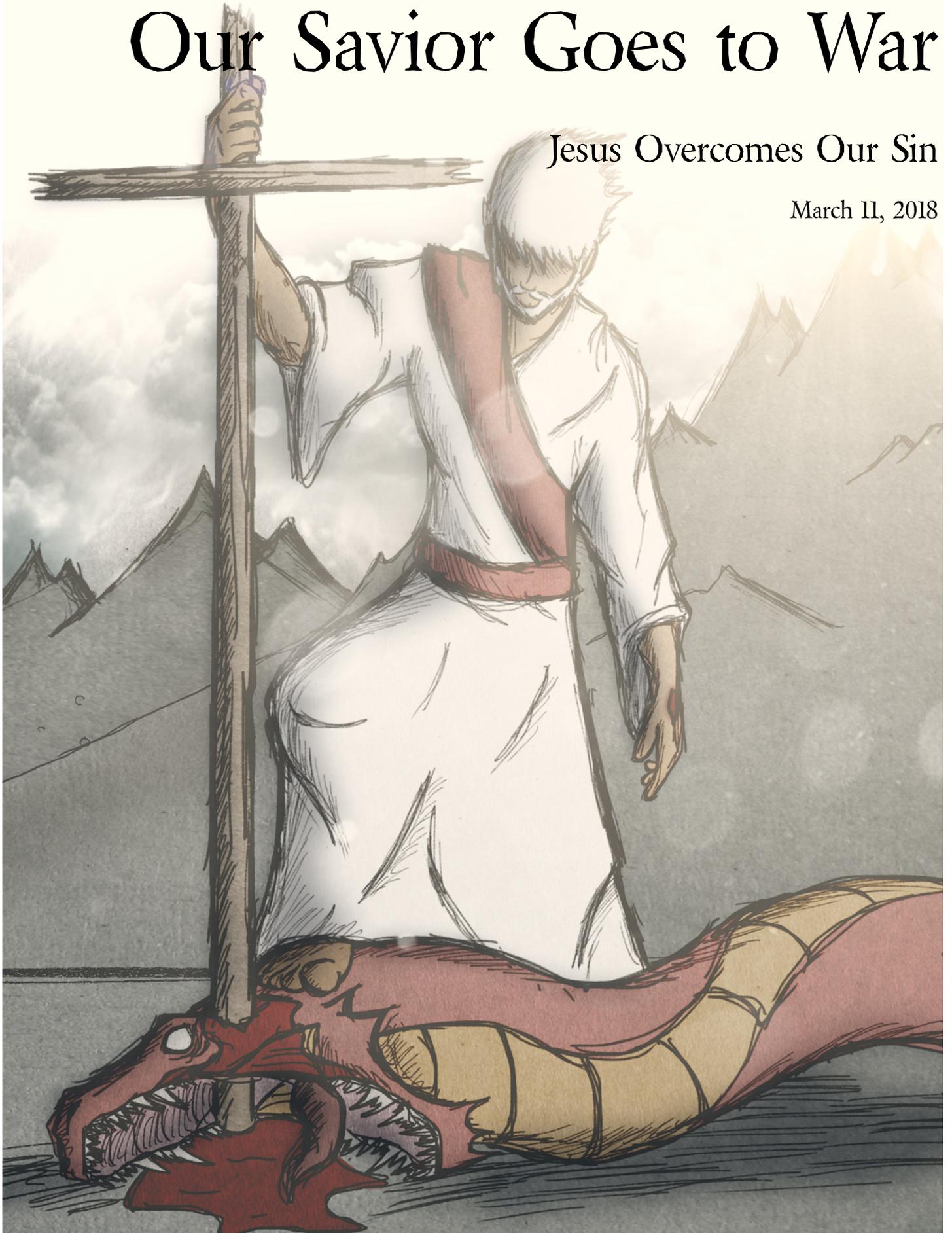


# Our Savior Goes to War

Jesus Overcomes Our Sin

March 11, 2018





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](http://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



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**[Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com](mailto: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.



# TODAY'S WORSHIP

Our Savior Overcomes Our Sin

March 11, 2018

There's a snake under your pew! It is the stinging awareness of our failure to love God and our neighbor. We are impatient with God as well as with our neighbor. Sometimes we're tempted to look for a better god or a better neighbor. As long as we obsess over our troubles, our frustrations---our "snakes"---they will keep biting and sin will keep killing us and our relationships. The Word today lifts our eyes to see that Christ on the cross took the bite of our sins into Himself in order that, as faith gazes and focuses on Him, we receive the perfect antidote to sin and death: forgiveness in Christ. Our Savior overcomes even our sin!

## 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, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, 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

## GATHERING RITE | *The Time of Fulfillment*

~Please stand

*Repeat refrain after cantor/choir and following the verse*

This is the time of ful - fill - ment! The  
reign of God is at hand!

**Refrain.**

Believe in the name of God's only Son, God's only Son.

**Refrain.**

## 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*

---

**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.

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.**

## 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.**

This is the time of fulfillment! The  
reign of God is at hand!

**Refrain.**

Believe in the name of God's only Son, God's only Son.

**Refrain.**

# THE WORD

## SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, 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.

**FIRST READING** | *Numbers 21:4-9 (pg. 242)*

*The Israelites rebelled and fell under God's judgment. Faith in God's promise was God's remedy for their troubles.*

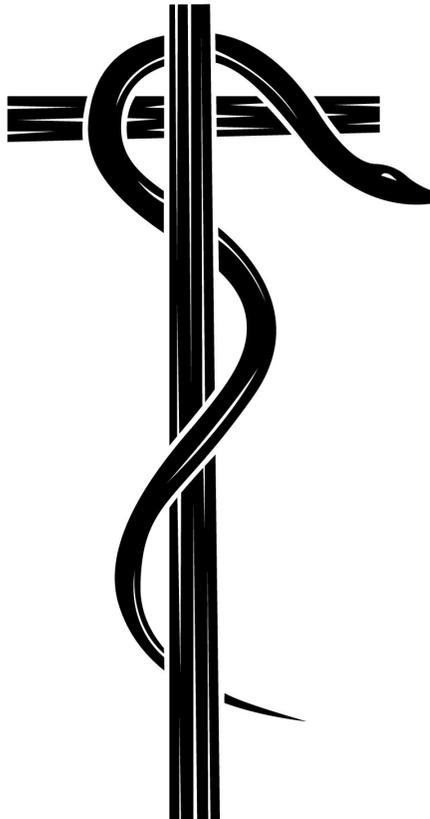
<sup>4</sup>They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; <sup>5</sup>they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"

<sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

<sup>8</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**





## SECOND READING | *Ephesians 2:1-10 (pg. 1818)*

*Marvel at God's grace, that even when we were dead in our sins, God made us alive with Christ.*

**2** As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup>in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. <sup>4</sup>But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup>made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup>And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | *John 3:16*

*~Please stand*

Refrain

Glo - ry to you, Word of God, Lord Je - sus Christ!

Glo - ry to you, Word of God, Lord Je - sus Christ!

Text: ICEL, © 1969  
Music: *Mass of Joy and Peace*, Tony E. Alonso, © 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

### Refrain

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

### 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.*

The Gospel according to St. John, chapter 3.

**Glory be to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus compares himself to the bronze snake. He was lifted up to pay for the sins of the world.*

<sup>14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. <sup>19</sup> This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”

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.*

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**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.*

HYMN OF THE DAY | #391 *God Loved the World So that He Gave*

## SERMON | John 3:14-21

~Please stand

After the sermon, the congregation sings:

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are as follows:

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.

**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](http://OurSaviorBirmingham.com) on your phone or computer*

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**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.*

# 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 willingly died under the curse of this world's sin so that we may live forever in the light of God's blessing. 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*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly

Lord, God of pow-er, God of might: heav - en and

earth are full of your glo - ry,

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord! Ho - san - na in the

**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.

high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the  
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## 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.*

## 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 tempo*  
A - men. A - men. A - men.

~Please be seated

## 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 | #715 *What Grace Is This!*

1 What grace is this! My Lord and  
 2 What grace is this— That ve - ry  
 3 What grace is this! Though Lord of  
 4 What grace is this! Rude a - gon -  
 5 What grace is this! Once wrapped in  
 6 What grace is this? How can it



King Has set his face to suf - fer -  
 God Would stoop to lift a cross of  
 all, He yields to Pon - tius Pil - ate's  
 ies! With com - mon thieves he hangs and  
 cloths And gent - ly laid in man - ger -  
 be? He wears this raw hu - mil - i -



ing. My God e - ter - nal dies to  
 wood And walk a road of rock and  
 law And lets the Ro - man ham - mers  
 bleeds. The sin - less Son bears each mis -  
 trough, He's ta - ken, dead, from wretch - ed  
 ty To lift me to e - ter - ni -



bring E - ter - nal life to  
 blood, A sin - ner's road, for  
 draw A rush of blood for  
 deed. He pays for all, for  
 cross And wrapped a - gain for  
 ty. Such grace—sweet grace— for

*Last time*



me.  
 me.  
 me.  
 me.  
 me.

SONG OF SIMEON | *Nunc Dimittis*


In peace, Lord, you let your  
 ser-vant now de-part ac-cord-ing to your word. For my  
 eyes have seen your sal-va-tion which  
 you have pre-pared for ev-'ry peo-ple, a  
 light to light-en the Gen-tiles and the  
 glo-ry of your peo-ple Is-ra-el.

## 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.**

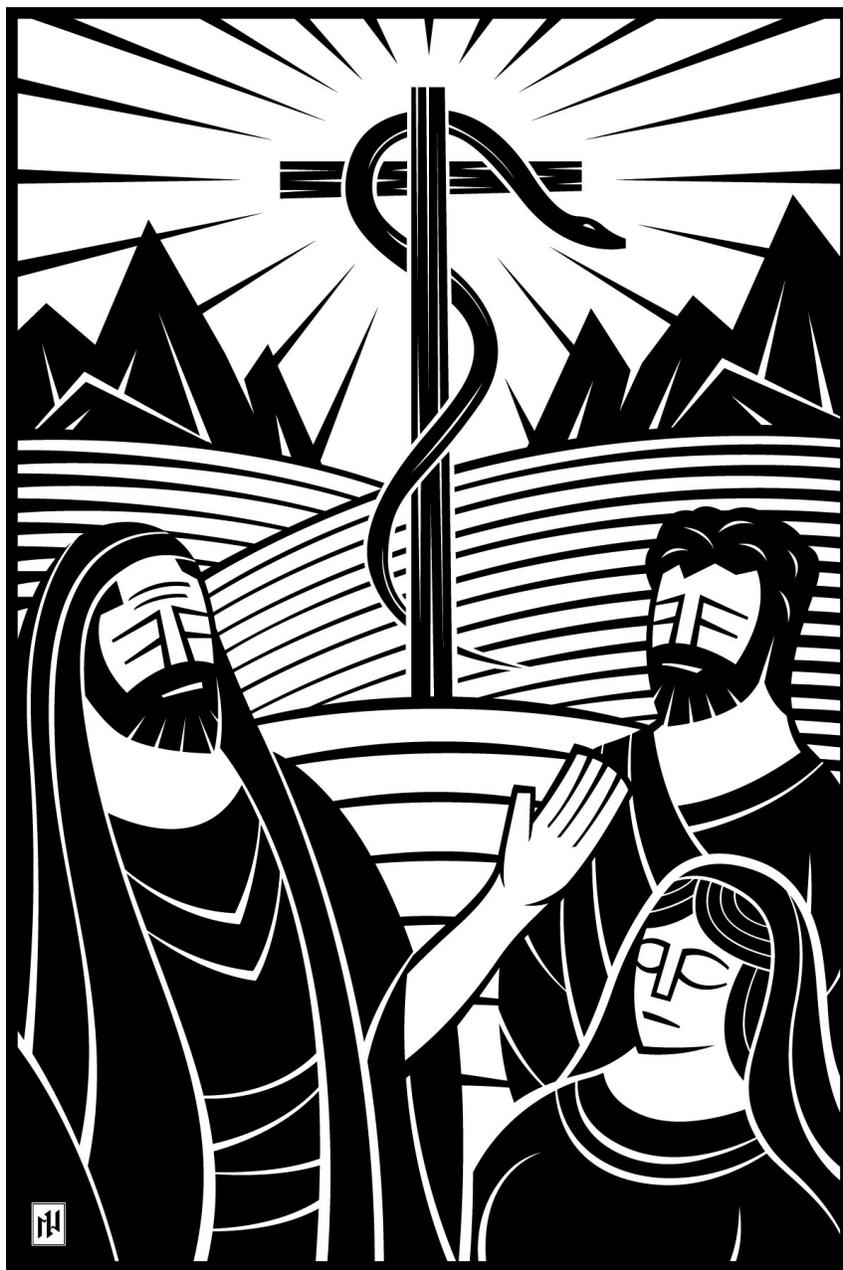
## BLESSING

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 (t) give you peace.

**Amen.**



---

**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).

HYMN | #748 *Lamb of God*

1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide,  
2 Your gift of love they cru - ci - fied,  
3 I was so lost; I should have died,

But you have sent him from your side  
They laughed and scorned him as he died:  
But you have brought me to your side

To walk up - on this guilt - y sod  
The hum - ble King they named a fraud  
To be led by your staff and rod

And to be - come the Lamb of God.  
And sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.  
And to be called a lamb of God.

*Refrain*  
O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,  
I love the ho - ly Lamb of God!  
Oh, wash me in his pre - cious blood,  
My Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

-Please be seated



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