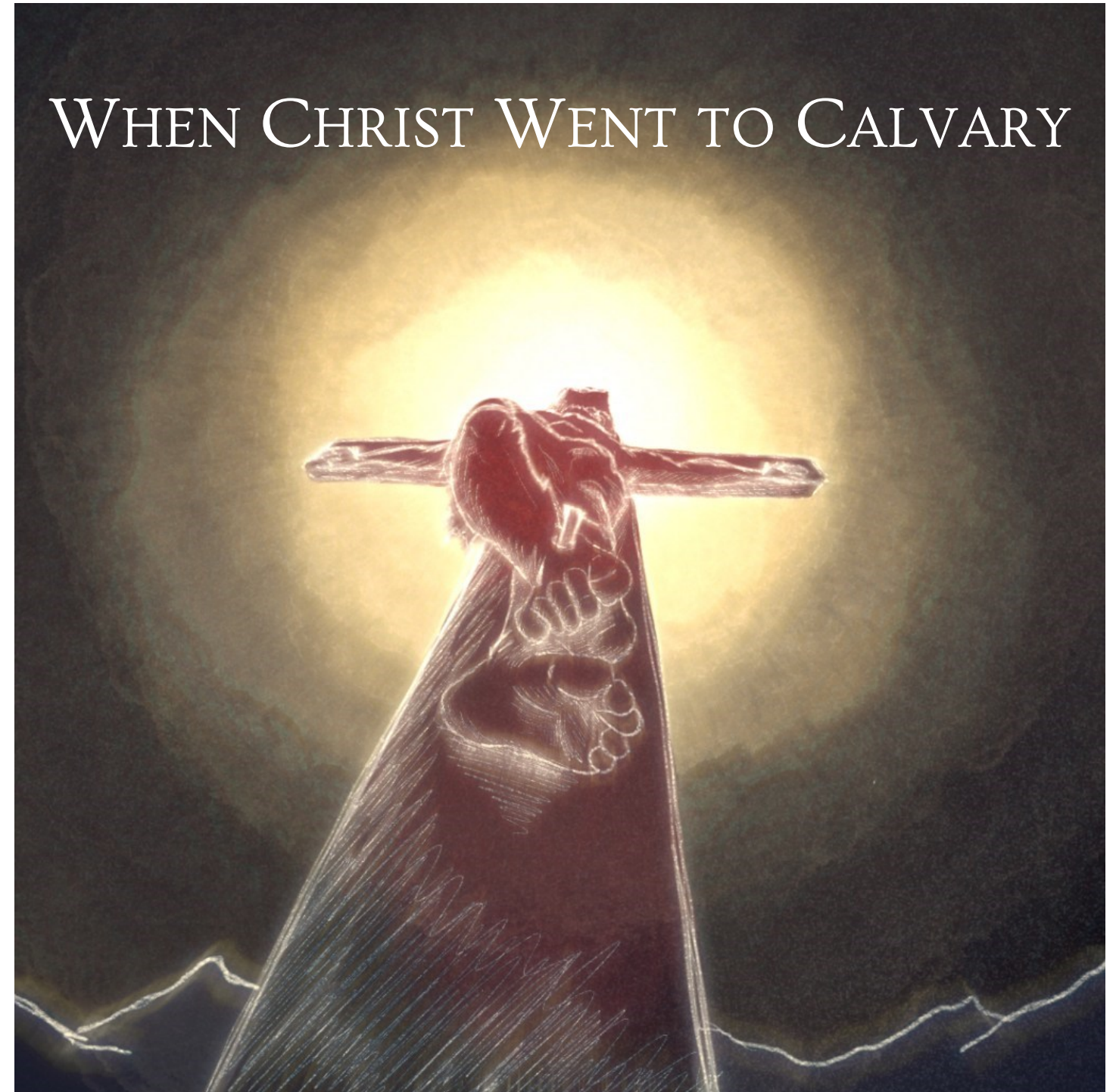


WHEN CHRIST WENT TO CALVARY



HE FORGAVE HIS BROTHERS AND SISTERS



OurSaviorBirmingham.com



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 | 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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[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 #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.

Tune: LAMB OF GOD (88 88 and Refrain)
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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

He Forgave His Brothers and Sisters

March 31, 2019

A foreigner comes to Birmingham in the fall. It seems as though everyone is wearing crimson and white or navy and orange. They say words that when put together seem to make no sense, words like "War Eagle" and "Roll Tide." Yet, they sense that something important is happening, they just don't know or understand what.

Perhaps the same is true for us as we approach Easter. We know its important, we just aren't sure why the church makes Easter such a big deal. In the week's leading up to Easter, we are going to be looking at what happened **When Christ Went to Calvary**. Each week, we will see a different aspect of Christ's battle on our behalf against sin, the devil, and death itself. Each week, we will have a clearer picture in our mind not only why Easter is important, but why Christ went to Calvary.

Today, we hear in God's Word how our Savior forgave our sins when he went to Calvary. Now, the repentant sinner rejoices at being found in the loving embrace of the Father's full, free, and "foolish" forgiveness. Secure in our Savior's love and forgiveness, we go forth to share the Good News with those around us.

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

Ushers: John Armstrong, Braden Keel

Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz

Church Office: (205) 677-8642

Cell: (205) 478-6843

Email: Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Order of Service

GATHERING RITE *Remember Your Love*

PLEASE STAND

Refrain

Re - mem - ber your love and your
 faith - ful - ness, O Lord. Re - mem - ber your
 peo - ple and have mer - cy on us, Lord.

Verses

- The Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion,
- If you dwelt, O Lord, up - on our sin - ful - ness,
- O Lord, hear the sound of my call
- As watch - man who waits up - on the day - light,
- Be - fore all the moun - tains were be - got - ten

whom should I fear? The Lord is my
 then who could stand? But with you there is
 and an - swer me. My heart cries
 wait for the Lord. I trust in your
 and earth took shape, e - ven then, O

D.C.

life and my ref - uge, when I call God hears.
 mer - cy and for - give - ness and a guid - ing hand.
 out for your pres - ence; it is you I seek.
 kind - ness and re - demp - tion; and your faith - ful word.
 Lord, you were our ref - uge through - out ev - 'ry age.

Text: Psalm 27; Mike Balhoff, b.1946
 Tune: Darryl Ducote, b.1945, and Gary Daigle, b.1957
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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, "Lord, in Your mercy:" the congregation responds by saying, "hear our prayer."

...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 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.

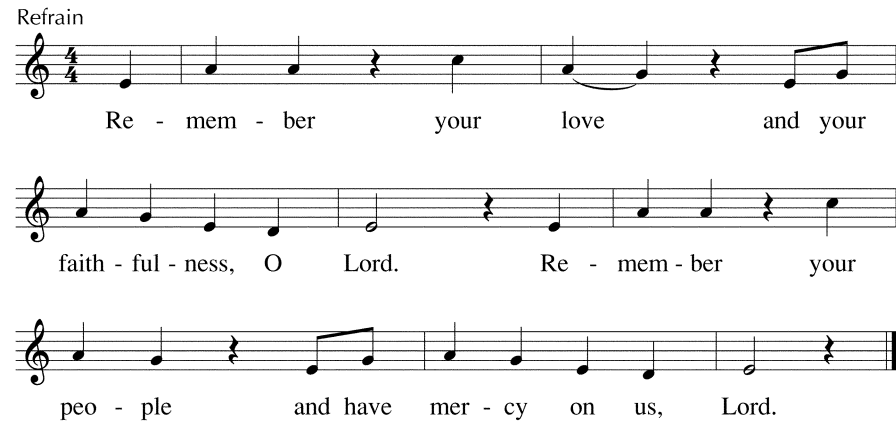
Salutation

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.

Refrain



Re - mem - ber your love and your
faith - ful - ness, O Lord. Re - mem - ber your
peo - ple and have mer - cy on us, Lord.

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

with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

³¹ " 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' "

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY #573 *Hark! The Voice of Jesus Crying*

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.

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.

PLEASE STAND

GOSPEL *Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (pg. 1624)*

The Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 15.

Glory be to you, O Lord!

The greatest comfort for the repentant heart is the full and free forgiveness, the love and welcome of the Father. Even though our sin should separate us from the family of God, he welcomes us back into the family with the full rights sons.

15 Now the tax collectors and “sinners” were all gathering around to hear him. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ Then Jesus told them this parable:

¹¹ Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

¹³ “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.’ ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹ “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

²² “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

²⁸ “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded

FIRST READING *Isaiah 12:1-6 (pg. 1078)*

The LORD’s fierce anger has turned to comfort and salvation. With the God of free and faithful grace, there is no more fear of divine retribution, but joyful singing and proclamation for he has done glorious things. The Holy One has become our salvation.

12 In that day you will say:

“I will praise you, O LORD.

Although you were angry with me,

your anger has turned away

and you have comforted me.

² Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust and not be afraid.

The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song;

he has become my salvation.”

³ With joy you will draw water

from the wells of salvation.

⁴ In that day you will say:

“Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name;

make known among the nations what he has done,

and proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵ Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things;

let this be known to all the world.

⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion,

for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

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.

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.

PSALM OF THE DAY *Psalm 32*



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*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.

*Happy the pardoned, whose sin is canceled, in whom God finds no evil, no deceit.
While I hid my sin, my bones grew weak from endless groaning.*

Refrain.

*Day and night, under the weight of your hand, my strength withered, as in a summer drought.
Then I stopped hiding my sin and spoke out, "God, I confess my wrong." **Refrain.***

*You are my shelter, you save me from ruin. You encircle me with songs of freedom.
Rejoice in the Lord. Be glad and sing, you faithful and just.*

Refrain.

SECOND READING *Romans 8:1-10 (pg. 1756)*

Because Christ has declared us sinners "not guilty," God's life-giving Spirit dwells now in believers. He frees us from the bondage of sin and death and leads us to live God-pleasing lives as children of God.

8 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ²because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. ³For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, ⁴in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

⁵Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; ⁷the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

⁹You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

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.