



OurSaviorBirmingham.com





Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this evening. 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.

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!

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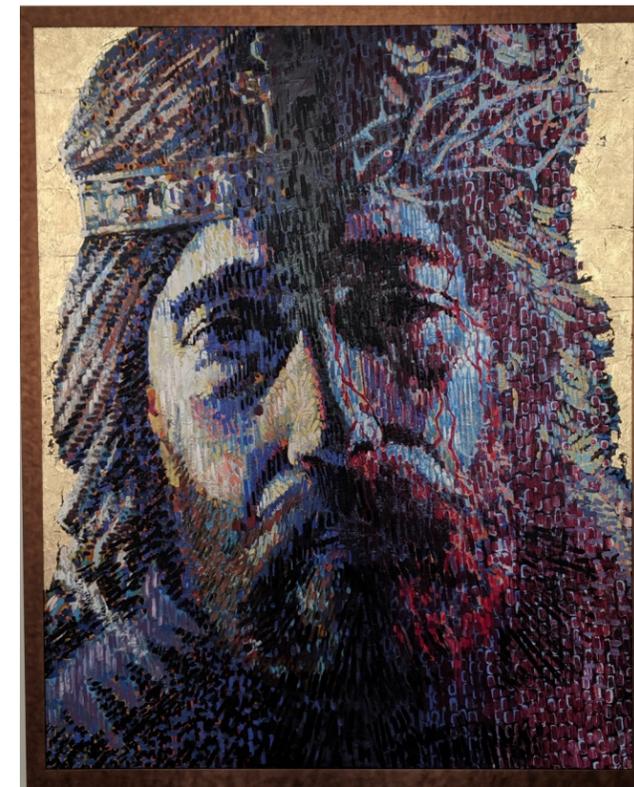
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 Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com | Pastor Kratz's email

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.



Christus Paradox, 2019

Jason Jaspersen

Oil on Canvas

60 x 48 inches

This image of Jesus wearing both a royal crown and crown of thorns shows a God who became a man. He surrendered himself to the Law to become the Gospel, all because of his relentless love for you. And although it may not always make sense to us, it is finished.

The color palette emphasizes the dual nature of Christ. The right side has warm shadows and cool light, an appropriately gloomy combination. The left side has cool shadows and warm light, which is what sunshine does. The reflective quality of the gold leaf in the background links this piece to a long tradition of liturgical art. Overlapping layers of paint create an active surface, with optical color mixes and flowing patterns.

Commissioned for the 50th anniversary of Our Savior Lutheran Church, celebrated on June 23, 2019.

PLEASE BE SEATED

Celebrating the Past, Certain of the Future

June 23, 2019

Since creation, our God's love and faithfulness have been on display as he interacts with his people. For the last fifty years, it is that same love and faithfulness that our God has shown to our congregation here in Birmingham. For that steadfast love and faithfulness, we take a moment today to rejoice and give thanks to God. We rejoice and give thanks for all his many blessings over the past fifty years. We trust that our gracious and faithful God will continue to guide our efforts and bless our work for many years to come!

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:

O God, you have promised to be with your Church forever. We thank you for those who founded this community of believers and for the signs of your favor over these past years. Increase our faith, knit us together in the bonds of love, and make our fellowship an example to all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Organist: Dr. Brent Nolte, past member of Our Savior Lutheran Church

Preacher: Pastor Chuck Westra, South Atlantic District President

Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz

Church Office: (205) 677-8642

Cell: (205) 478-6843

Email: Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- *Artwork* by Ian M. Welch and Corissa Nelson. © 2012 Ian M. Welch. © 2017 Corissa Nelson. All Rights Reserved. (paramentics.com / corissanelsonart.com)
 - *Scripture* is taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION © NIV® ©1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-702194:
 - *Service of the Word*. © 1992 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 - "We Are His People," *Psalm 100*. David Haas. © 1983 GIA Publications. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Order of Service

HYMN #532 *God is Here! As We His People*



1 God is here! As we his peo - ple Meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us Of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come In the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of Church and King - dom, In an age of



praise and prayer, May we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace. Here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; Here, as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, Keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



What it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world a -
Here the cross has cen - tral place. Here, in hon - es - ty of
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants of the
Help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's ded - i -



round us, All our var - ied skills and arts Wait the
preach - ing, Here, in si - lence as in speech, Here, in
Ser - vant Seek in wor - ship to ex - plore What it
ca - tion, All we have to give, re - ceive; We who



com - ing of his Spir - it In - to o - pen minds and hearts.
new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
means in dai - ly liv - ing To be - lieve and to a - dore.
can - not live with - out you, We a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000. © 1979 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.
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Tune: IN BABILONE (87 87 D) *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse . . . Contradansen*, Amsterdam, c. 1710.

PLEASE STAND

INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son (+), and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

PLEASE STAND

PRAYER

Most High God, the heavens cannot contain you, yet you are willing to make your home in human hearts. We give you thanks for the gifts of those who began this congregation and have built this house of prayer to your glory. We praise you for the fellowship of those who gather here. We pray that all who seek you may find you and be filled with your joy and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

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

HYMN 622 *For Many Years, O God of Grace*



1 For man - y years, O God of grace, This church has
2 Here chil - dren have been born a - new; Their par - ents
3 Here when the mar - riage vows were made, Both bride and



been your dwell - ing place And we your con - gre - ga - tion.
brought them un - to you, Your prom - is - es con - fess - ing.
bride - groom sought your aid, Your love their own tran - scend - ing.



Up - on the pre - cious cor - ner - stone Our faith is
Here man - y found a ta - ble spread; They ate Christ's
Here mourn - ers with their trou - bled hearts Have found the



built, and Christ a - lone Is still our one foun - da - tion.
bod - y with the bread And drank the cup of bless - ing.
peace your Word im - parts, The joy that has no end - ing.



To - day We pray: Let us greet you, Lord, and meet you
To - day We pray: Ban - ish sad - ness, As with glad - ness
To - day We pray: May the sto - ry of your glo - ry



Here with sing - ing. All our prais - es to you bring - ing.
We a - dore you, Glad - ly wor - ship here be - fore you.
Here re - sound - ing Be a song of grace a - bound - ing.

Text: William M. Czamanske, 1873–1964, alt.
Tune: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET (887 887 22 44 48) Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, alt.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

Psalm 90:1

You, O Lord, have been a dwelling place for us and for our children.

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Psalm 90:2

You, O Lord, have been with us these 50 years!

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble

Psalm 46:1

You, O Lord, have been our refuge and our strength!

The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Psalm 46:7

You, O Lord, are the eternal One and we trusted in you.

Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22–23

You, O Lord, have been our faithful One!

I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

Matthew 16:18

You, O Lord, have built your church in this place and we have been blessed.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS

As we come into the presence of God to thank him for his gracious love and to rejoice in his unending faithfulness, we are confronted with our unworthiness. As individuals and as a congregation we have sinned often in what we have done and in what we have left undone. We come and confess before Him that we have disobeyed in our thoughts, in our words, and in our actions. Let us affirm that our church leans on the forgiveness of sins through faith in Christ for our strength.

We take refuge in God's infinite mercy, seeking His grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we say: God be merciful to me, a sinner.

Silence for personal confession of sins to God

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. Therefore as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son (†), and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized all be saved.

Grant this, Lord, to us all.

HYMN OF PRAISE

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

HYMN #234 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* (v.1,5)



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly
 3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,
 4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -
 5 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for
 reign - ing And, as on wings of an
 made you; Health has be - stowed and, when
 fend you; Sure - ly his good - ness and
 dore him! All that has life and breath,



he is your health and sal - va - tion!
 ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
 heed - less - ly fall - ing, has stayed you.
 mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
 come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear Now to his tem - ple draw
 Have you not seen All that is need - ful has
 What need or grief Ev - er has failed of re -
 Pon - der a - new What the Al - might - y can
 Let the A - men Sound from his peo - ple a -



near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
 been Sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
 lief? Wings of his mer - cy did shade you.
 do As with his love he be - friends you.
 gain; Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–80; tr. composite.
 Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN (14 14 478) *Ander Theil Des Erneuerten Gesang-Buchs*, Stralsund, 1665, alt.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, at this anniversary we reflect on your past help and are encouraged in our hope for the future. 50 years ago you gathered together a group of believers in this community and for 50 years this group has worshiped, preached, and shared the message of sins forgiven with the community. We give you thanks for the work of your Spirit among us over the years. We rejoice in the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, for fellowship with believers in our congregation and in our synod.

Help us to rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and to use them faithfully.

Holy Father, it was your Spirit who called us, your Gospel that motivated us, your strength that empowered us. To you be the glory for this congregation and your Holy Christian Church throughout the world! Continue to bless our work that we might be like a city on a hill that cannot be hidden! Through Word and sacrament send your Spirit to bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love to our family, our friends, and our community, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

Awaken us to the opportunities you give to proclaim your message of love.

Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd. As we seek to share your Word with the next generation we ask you to feed your little lambs through the work of our Sunday School, godly parents and grandparents. Give us a heart like yours that loves little children dearly. Cause your Holy Spirit to work mightily in us and through us, so that we may grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through the Bible classes and spiritual growth opportunities offered here. As the deer pants for streams of water, instill in us a longing to explore the mysteries of your grace.

Holy Spirit, increase in us the knowledge of your truth.

We pray for the people in this congregation past and present, that you O Lord might continue to bind us together in Christian love and service—for all those who have been baptized at your font, confirmed in the faith, married before your altar, and for those who have sung the song of the resurrection as they mourned the loss of their loved one in your house. Pour out on this family of believers such grace and mercy that we might remain your children from birth, to death, to life eternal. Give us courage and hope as we move day by day into the future. Strengthen us in the confidence that you have already overcome our greatest enemies: sin, death, and the devil.

Increase our trust in your precious promise that you are with us always.

O Triune God, let us never glory in workers or growth, in buildings or past achievements. Instead focus our hearts on your work that is before us and lead us to commit our labor to your hands. Then keep your promise, that your word will not return empty. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.

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

Silent prayer.

Grant that this celebration of your gracious activity in years and ages past be only the prelude to that far greater celebration we will enjoy forever in the joy and glory of the world to come. Still be our guard while troubles last and our eternal home.

Amen.

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

DEDICATION OF ARTWORK

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Our Savior Lutheran Church and as expression of our joy and thanksgiving to God for his love and faithfulness, Our Savior Lutheran Church commissioned artist Jason Jaspersen to produce a piece of artwork that would serve to focus people's hearts and minds on our Savior as they entered our church. We therefore dedicate this piece of artwork in thanksgiving to God and to his glory.

Let us pray.

O Lord our God, we praise and thank you for establishing among us a place where we may worship you and where your Word may be proclaimed and your sacraments received. You have enriched our lives with every good and perfect gift. You are pleased with the offerings of faith which your people bring to glorify your holy name. Look with favor on us as we present this artwork to your praise and glory.

Amen.

We dedicate this piece of art for service in God's house, in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

May it reflect our love for you, benefit this body of believers, and bring joy and reflection to those who see it.

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and further us with your continual help, that in all our works—begun, continued, and ended in you—we may glorify your holy name and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Word

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

O God, you have promised to be with your Church forever. We thank you for those who founded this community of believers and for the signs of your favor over these past years. Increase our faith, knit us together in the bonds of love, and make our fellowship an example to all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY #753 *Father, God of Grace, You Knew Us*

Organist: Brianna Nolte; Trumpet: Brent Nolte, Lydia Kratz; Horn: Laura Nolte; Baritone: Ben Kratz



1 Fa - ther, God of grace, you knew us,
 2 We, your crea - tures, sinned a - gainst you,
 3 Coun - sel - or, you bring as prom - ised
 4 Lord, your change - less Word has fed us,
 5 For - ward lead us; Christ, we fol - low,
 6 Praise the Fa - ther, great Cre - a - tor.



Chose us, named us as your own,
 And our guilt was crim - son red.
 From the Fa - ther and the Son
 Span - ning time, tran - scend - ing space.
 Drawn by Word and prom - ise true:
 Praise the Son, who took our place.



Through e - ter - nal a - ges plan - ning
 Son of God, you came in - car - nate,
 Right - eous - ness ful - filled, ac - com - plished,
 Wa - ter, bread, and wine sus - tained us
 "To all na - tions preach the gos - pel;
 Praise the Spir - it, Sanc - ti - fi - er,



To re - deem us in your Son.
 Crushed the craft - y ser - pent's head,
 Free for - give - ness, heav - en won.
 When the dark - ness hid your face.
 I am ev - er - more with you."
 God of free and faith - ful grace!



Praise the Fa - ther, God who loved us
 Died our death, now live tri - um - phant:
 Praise the Spir - it! He as - sures us
 Keep us with you, faith - ful Shep - herd,
 Keep us faith - ful! Then, Lord Je - sus,
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Ere cre - a - tion was be - gun!
 Praise the first - born from the dead!
 Our sal - va - tion's work is done!
 By your sav - ing means of grace!
 Quick - ly come! Make all things new!
 Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

PSALM OF THE DAY *Psalm 100*



We are his peo - ple, the



flock of the Lord.

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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.

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all you lands, all you lands.

*Serve the Lord now with gladness, come before him singing for joy! **Refrain.***

Know that the Lord is God! Know that the Lord is God!

*He made us, we are his, his people, the sheep of his flock! **Refrain.***

Go, now within his gates giving thanks, giving thanks.

*Enter his courts singing praise, give him thanks and bless his name! **Refrain.***

Indeed, how good is the Lord, his mercy endures forever,

*For the Lord he is faithful, he is faithful from age to age! **Refrain.***

SECOND READING *Revelation 3:7-13 (pg. 1916)*

It is God's gracious love and faithfulness that enables us to patiently endure this world of sorrows, to keep his Word and not deny his name, and to cling to our salvation until our Lord returns.

⁷ "To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write:

These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. ⁸ I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. ⁹ I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. ¹⁰ Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.

¹¹ I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. ¹² Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name. ¹³ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PLEASE STAND

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Psalms 115:1*

Music: *Alleluia in C*, Howard Hughes, SM, © 1973, 1982, GIA Publications, Inc.

Refrain.

Not to us, O Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness.

Refrain.

GOSPEL *John 17:1, 13-26 (pg. 1679)*

The Gospel according to St. John, chapter 17.

Glory be to you, O Lord!

In his gracious love and faithfulness, our Savior prays for us—that our heavenly Father would protect us, sanctify us, and unite us in our faith.

^{17:1} After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

"Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.

¹³ "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴ I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

²⁰ "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: ²³ I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

²⁴ "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

²⁵ "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

PLEASE BE SEATED