July 7, 2019

OurSaviorBirmingham.com

1074 Dunnavant Valley Rd. | 205-677-8642 | Pastor@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*** | *Daily Bible passage, weekly sermon videos, and upcoming events*
- ***OurSaviorBham*** | *Daily Bible passage, weekly video worship service previews, and upcoming events*
- ***OurSaviorBham*** | *Daily Bible passage, event pictures, and church pictures*
- ***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.

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.

HYMN #282 *Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear*

PLEASE BE SEATED

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).

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.

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

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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*Throughout the prayer, when the leader says, "Lord, in Your mercy:" the congregation responds by saying, "**hear our prayer.**"*

...Supply us by the grace of Jesus with the Spirit's power, that we may ever be comforted by your truth and sustained by your love. For these and all the other things you know we need, we confidently ask in the name of him who gave himself for us that we might live through him, Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

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.

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

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Elemental: the Word — July 7, 2019

Elemental—a word that Merriam Webster defines as being the basic or essential constituent of something, the fundamental or key components that make up SOMETHING. For example, without hydrogen molecules, H_20 isn't water.

What are the key components, the elemental pieces that make up the believers life? What are those things that affect how we as children of God view life and live as followers of Christ? Our worship series the next several weeks is going to look at those key components of the Christian's walk with Jesus: things like the Word, prayer, service, and love—those elemental items that change how we approach life, that adjust how we see our priorities, and how we as believers live life.

Today, we take note of the many things in this world that can distract us from the simple privilege and duty of believers to hear the Word of God and listen with a trusting heart! We see how living according to God's will means giving the Word of God central place in our lives as the one thing needful, an ELEMENTAL component to our life as a child of God!

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:

> Grant us, Lord, the spirit to think and do what is right that we, who cannot do anything that is good without you, may by your help be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Ushers: Roger Benz, Johnny Culver

Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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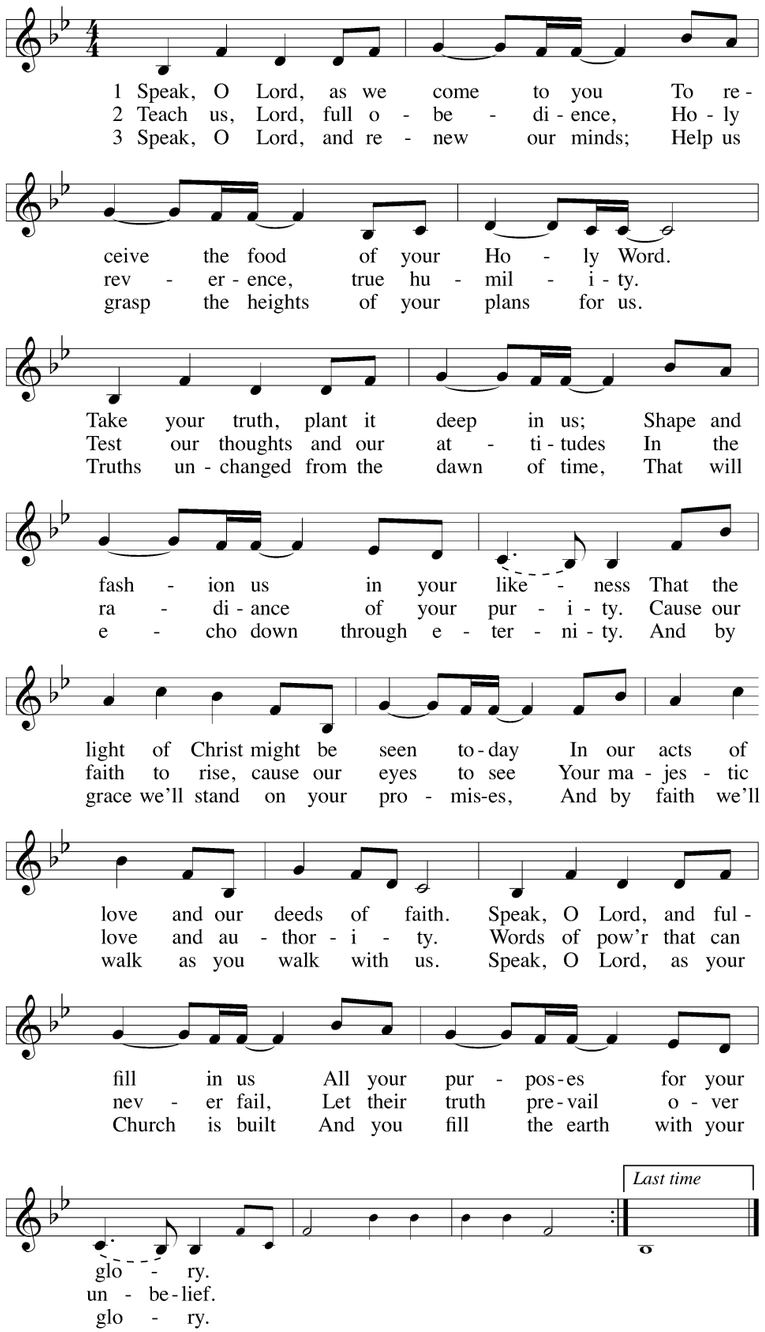
Order of Service

HYMN #735 *Speak, O Lord*



SERMON *Luke 10:38-42*

One Thing is Needed

38 As Jesus and his disciples were on their
way, he came to a village where a woman
named Martha opened her home to him. 39 She
had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's
feet listening to what he said. 40 But Martha was
distracted by all the preparations that had to be
made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't
you care that my sister has left me to do the
work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

41 "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered,
"you are worried and upset about many things,
42 but only one thing is needed. Mary has
chosen what is better, and it will not be taken
away from her."

NOTES:

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.

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.

GOSPEL *Luke 10:38-42 (pg. 1613)*

The Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 10.

Glory be to you, O Lord!

Christians today can certainly identify with Martha. So much to do and so little time! We have great excuses and fine rationalizations to explain the fact we have so little time to sit at Jesus' feet. But like Martha, our reasons fail in the face of Christ's simple statement: there is one needful thing—to hear the Word of God.

38 As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named
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to what he said. 40 But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She
came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself?
Tell her to help me!"

41 "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, 42 but
only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

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.

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY #541 *Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide*

PLEASE STAND

GREETING

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

Congregation: And also with you.

Greeting

This blessing from 2 Corinthians 13:14 reminds us of the foundation of worship: God's grace. He loves us because of Jesus and we have fellowship with God and each other because of the faith the Holy Spirit gives us. The congregation responds by praying the same blessing on their pastor.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS

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.

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.

Silence for personal confession and reflection

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.

Amen.

The Confession and Forgiveness of Sins

Our God is a holy God, and we are unholy sinners. Before we meet our God, our status before him must change – or he would destroy us. We confess our sins, trusting God's promise to forgive us (See 1 John 1:9). Our Lord wants to forgive our sins. He sent Jesus to make us "at one" (atonement) with God by dying on the cross for our sins. The pastor makes the sign of the cross to remind us we are forgiven only because Jesus died on the cross.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Hymn of Praise

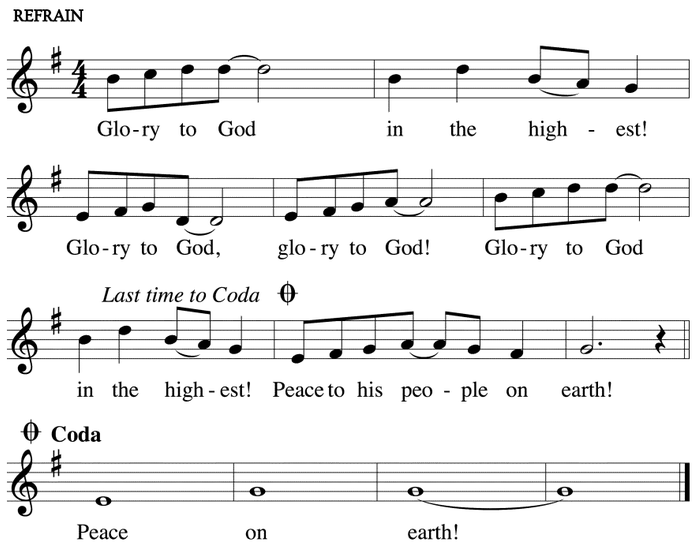
Purified of our sin, we respond with a song of praise, based on the angel's song at Jesus' birth. "Glory to God in the Highest" has been a Christian song of worship since the fourth century.

Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

Amen.

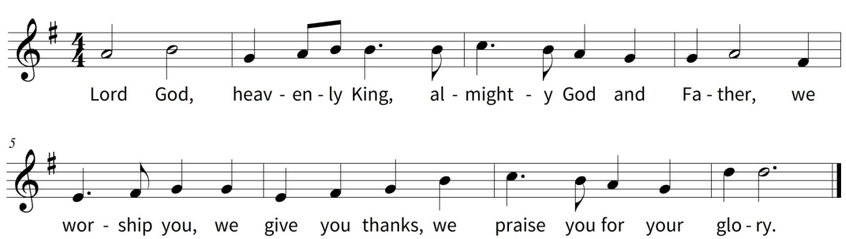
HYMN OF PRAISE

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



Music: *Mass, Jesus, the Compassion of God,* David Haas; © 1991, 1999, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

Verse 1 (followed by refrain)



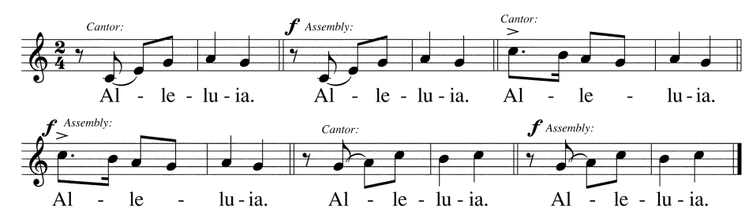
[9] For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. [10] And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, [11] being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully [12] giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. [13] For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, [14] in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PLEASE STAND

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Isaiah 55:11*



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

Refrain.

My Word will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Refrain.

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.

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 119:33-40*

Psalm 119 holds before God's people the blessings and importance of a life centered in his Word.

33 Teach me, O LORD, to follow your decrees;
then I will keep them to the end.
34 **Give me understanding, and I will keep your law**
and obey it with all my heart.
35 Direct me in the path of your commands,
for there I find delight.
36 **Turn my heart toward your statutes**
and not toward selfish gain.
37 Turn my eyes away from worthless things;
preserve my life according to your word.
38 **Fulfill your promise to your servant,**
so that you may be feared.
39 Take away the disgrace I dread,
for your laws are good.
40 **How I long for your precepts!**
Preserve my life in your righteousness.

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.

SECOND READING *Colossians 1:1-14 (pg. 1831)*

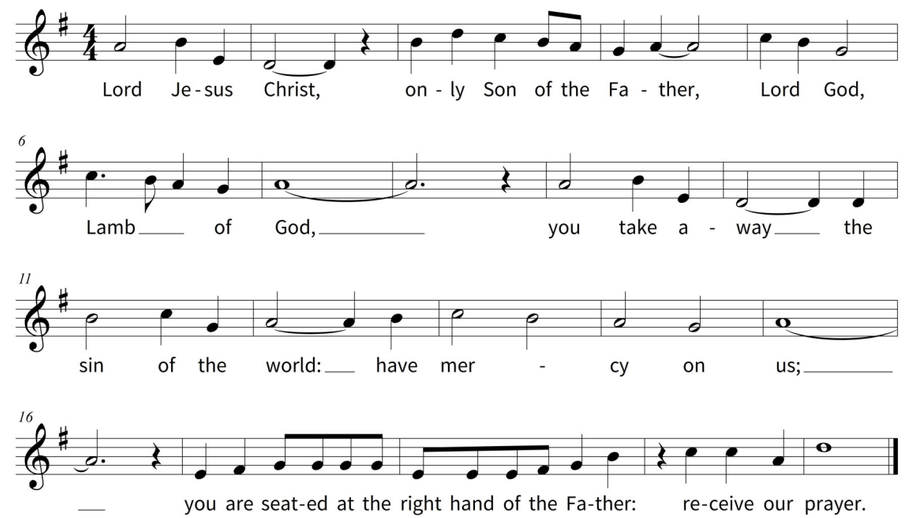
Paul became a servant of the Church to present the Word of God. Now, Spirit-worked appreciation for what has been given to them in Christ Jesus through the Gospel has led the Colossians to bear fruits of faith and love for the benefit of God's kingdom. Paul's prayer is that this work of the Spirit continues, not only in the hearts of the Colossians, but also in hearts of believers today.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

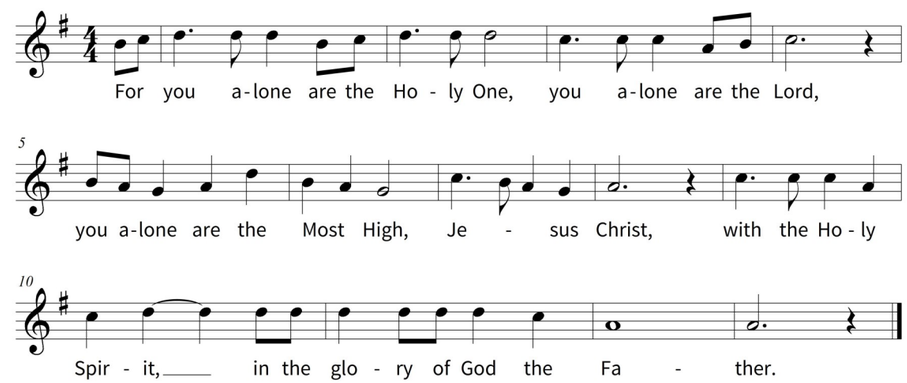
2 To the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colosse:
Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, 4 because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints— 5 the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel 6 that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. 7 You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, 8 and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

Verse 2 (followed by refrain)



Verse 3 (followed by refrain repeated twice)



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.

The Word

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

Grant us, Lord, the spirit to think and do what is right that we, who cannot do anything that is good without you, may by your help be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED

FIRST READING *Genesis 18:1-14 (pg. 24)*

The Lord appeared to Abraham and promised him a son. While the world laughs with Sarah at the seemingly impossible promises of God, we hear the Word of the Lord and believe it. With the Word of the Lord in its rightful, central place in the life of the believer, nothing is impossible. The Lord spoke and ancient Abraham had a son.

18:1 The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the
entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. 2 Abraham looked up and saw three men standing
nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low
to the ground.

3 He said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. 4 Let a little
water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. 5 Let me get you
something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to
your servant."

"Very well," they answered, "do as you say."

6 So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. "Quick," he said, "get three seahs of fine flour and
knead it and bake some bread."

7 Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who
hurried to prepare it. 8 He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared,
and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

9 "Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him.

"There, in the tent," he said.

10 Then the LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife
will have a son."

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. 11 Abraham and
Sarah were already old and well advanced in years, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. 12
So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now
have this pleasure?"

13 Then the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child,
now that I am old?' 14 Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time
next year and Sarah will have a son."

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.