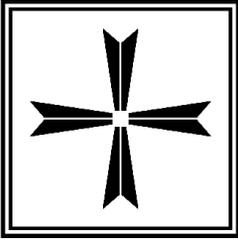


THE CHRISTIAN FAITH, ONE WORD AT A TIME:

RECONCILIATION

JULY 20, 2014



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

*BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA
JULY 20, 2014*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word. If you are a guest, please fill out a Connection card found in our entryway. You can place it in the offering plate or hand it to Pastor or an usher as you leave.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Sound / Music: Roger Benz

Ushers: Roger Benz, Shannon Sikes

Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz

Church Office: (205) 677-8642

Cell: (205) 478-6843

Email: Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY



In the book of Romans, the apostle Paul clearly and succinctly lays out God's plan of salvation. Over the next several weeks, we are going to be taking a closer look at this book and see how it describes the main points of our saving faith, one word at a time.

Christ did not die for the good Christian folk. He died for the ungodly, the immoral, the enemies of God who wanted nothing to do with him. In short, he died for us, because that is what we were before the grace and mercy of God sought us and found us. How he did it is the focus of the word we are looking at today:

Reconciliation. To reconcile is to bring to opposing sides together. This Christ did as God reconciled us to himself through the work of our Savior.

BEFORE WORSHIP

As you prepare to worship your Lord today, spend a few quiet moments in prayer before the service. Review the lessons, the service notes, and pray this prayer:

O God, you have prepared joys beyond understanding for those who love you. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FOR FAMILIES

Children's Activity Sheets give activities and lessons pertaining to the Scripture lessons for the day. Ask an usher at the door into the sanctuary.

If your little one needs a moment, there is a speaker and window in our entryway that will allow you to see and hear the service.

Children's Church is a special place for younger children to hear a Bible story, sing some songs, learn a prayer, and do a craft. You can escort your child to our children's church just before the sermon as noted in the service folder.

INFORMATION

Bathrooms are located at the end of the end of the hallway as you exit the sanctuary.

Looking for more information? If you would like to learn more about Our Savior Lutheran Church, check out our information table in the entryway, speak with Pastor Kratz after the service, send him an email at: Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com, or call the church office at (205) 677-8642.

Our Savior Lutheran Church is a member of a group of more than twelve hundred churches called Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church body with congregations serving all fifty of the United States, as well as Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and over 25 countries through world mission work.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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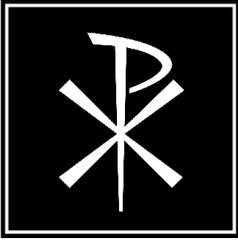
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SERVICE OF THE WORD

OPENING HYMN

#226

TO YOUR TEMPLE I DRAW NEAR

~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.**

CONFESSION 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).

L 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.

C **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.**

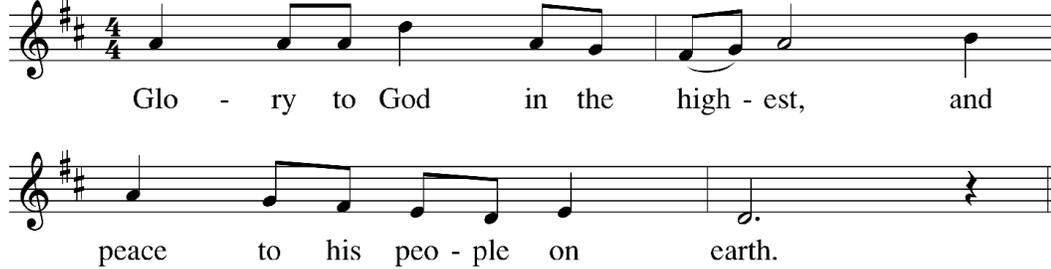
L God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C **Amen.**

GLORY TO GOD ~ "GLORIA IN EXCELSIS"

L In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth.

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the words 'Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and' and the second staff contains the melody for 'peace to his peo - ple on earth.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, using quarter and eighth notes.

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

Verses

1. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father.
2. We worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you, we praise you for your glory.
3. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive, receive our prayer.
4. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

L Let us pray:

O God, you have prepared joys beyond understanding for those who love you. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire. We pray this and all things through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

This greeting has deep roots in Christian worship.

~PLEASE BE SEATED



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 12:1-6 (PG. 1078)

Although our sins separated us from our God, he has turned his anger away from us and comforted us because He is 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.”

PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 100

We rejoice in the God who has made us his people through the work of Jesus our Savior!



L Refrain.

C Refrain.

The congregation continues to sing the refrain while the verses are sung.

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!

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.

Go, now within his gates giving thanks, giving thanks.
Enter his courts singing praise, give him thanks and bless his name.

Indeed, how good is the Lord, his mercy endures forever,
For the Lord he is faithful, he is faithful from age to age.

SECOND LESSON

ROMANS 5:6-11 (PG. 1753)

⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

*God has come to us
through his Son and
brought us peace
through the blood that
was shed.*

VERSE OF THE DAY

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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

As the father and the son are reconciled in the story of the prodigal son, so we have been reconciled to God through the work of his son.

~PLEASE STAND

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 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.' "

After the Gospel, the congregation responds:

☐ 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

#123

LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOU SET US FREE

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

SERMON

ROMANS 5:6-11

APOSTLES CREED

~PLEASE STAND

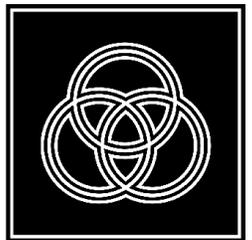
C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

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

OFFERING



Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word.

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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

~PLEASE STAND

- L** O Lord, our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth.
- C** **We praise you for every grace and blessing.**
- L** Strengthen your Church in all the world. Let your comforting message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed to troubled souls everywhere.
- C** **Use our ministries and offerings to extend your healing and your hope.**
- L** We bring you our requests for the various structures of our society. Bless our national, state (provincial), and local governments.
- C** **Grant us civil servants who are worthy of honor and respect.**
- L** Grant prosperity to our businesses and industries. Give employers a sense of fairness toward their workers, and employees a feeling of joy and pride in their workmanship.
- C** **Help us find satisfaction in all work well done.**
- L** Invigorate the schools of our land. Give success to every effort that helps students read, think, and communicate in ways that will promote an informed and responsible citizenry. Arouse curious minds to discover the wonders of your created order.
- C** **Give us teachers and students who pursue excellence.**
- L** Strengthen the families of our country. Give fathers and mothers a renewed commitment to be good parents. Give children and young people the wisdom to regard their parents as your representatives.
- C** **Lead us to love one another as you have loved us.**
Special prayers and intercessions may follow.
- L** Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.
Silent prayer.
- L** Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare.
- C** **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

- C** **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

~PLEASE BE SEATED

O JESUS SO SWEET, O JESUS SO MILD

PRAYER

~PLEASE STAND

L 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.

C **Amen.**

L The Lord has refreshed us with His Word. Let us head into this new week equipped for lives of service.

C **Our mission is to worship God, to spread his Word to our community and to all nations, and to nurture all believers to prepare them for lives of Christian service.**

BLESSING

L Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

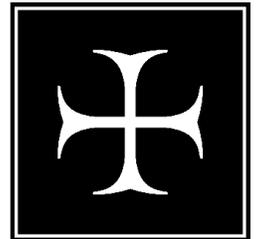
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.

C **Amen.**

~PLEASE BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN

CREATOR SPIRIT, BY WHOSE AID

The blessing of Aaron has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. The Lord said, "So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them" (Numbers 6:27).



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