





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 | Video and audio sermons archives, calendar of events, and more!

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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.



TODAY'S WORSHIP

Elemental—Security

July 28, 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, H₂O 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 examine all the places we may seek to find security and a feeling of safety in this life... from money, possessions, relationships, jobs, good grades, the approval of people... and the list could go on and on. However, for the believer, security and confidence in life comes from only one place. An understanding of how God sees them in Christ and a confidence in the promises of God—no matter how difficult they seem to believe allows us to be sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not yet see.

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 and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of 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: Bob Holbrook, Doug Vertein

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Order of Service

HYMN #382 *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

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.

PLEASE STAND

INVOCATION

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

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

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 live for you.

Amen.

GLORY TO GOD



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the
high-est and peace, peace, peace, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.
Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther. We wor-ship
you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high-est and
peace, peace, peace, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.

Lord, Have Mercy

The expression "Lord have mercy" is one of the oldest worship responses in the Christian church. It is also known by its Greek name, "Kyrie, eleison." "Kyrie" is the Greek word for "Lord," "eleison" for "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.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the

Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a -

way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat - ed at the right hand of God the Fa - ther: re -

rit.

ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.

a tempo

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est and

peace, peace, peace, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the

Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est and

peace, peace, peace, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

The Word

SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of 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

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.

FIRST READING *Genesis 15:1-6 (pg. 20)*

God came and reminded Abraham that God was not only Abraham's shield, but his treasure, too. Abraham was secure in the promise's God had given. Certain again of what he could only see by faith, Abraham looked forward to the fulfillment of the Lord's promise to bless him with the seeming impossibility of a son.

^{15:1} After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

“Do not be afraid, Abram.
I am your shield,
your very great reward.”

² But Abram said, “O Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³ And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

⁴ Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir.” ⁵ He took him outside and said, “Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

⁶ Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY *Psalm 121*



God is ev - er wake - ful and
al - ways near, Watch - ing,
sheild - ing, shel - ter - ing.

The English translation of Psalm 121 from the *Liturgical Psalter*
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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.

*If I look to the mountains, will they come to my aid?
My help is the Lord, who made earth and the heavens. **Refrain.***

*May God, ever wakeful, keep you from stumbling;
The guardian of Israel neither rests nor sleeps. **Refrain.***

*God shields you, a protector by your side.
The sun shall not harm you by day nor the moon by night. **Refrain.***

*God shelters you from evil, securing your life.
God watches over you near and far, now and always. **Refrain.***

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.

Second Reading

The Second Reading of Scripture 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 *Hebrews 11:1-3; 8-16 (pg. 1874)*

Using the life of Abraham as an example, the writer to the Hebrews encourages faithful living that looks forward to and finds its security in the fulfilled promises of the Lord.

^{11:1} Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. ² This is what the ancients were commended for.

³ By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

⁸ By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹ By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

¹¹ By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. ¹² And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

¹³ All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. ¹⁴ People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

PLEASE STAND

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Hebrews 11:1*

Cantor: Al - le - lu - ia. *f Assembly:* Al - le - lu - ia. *Cantor:* Al - le - lu - ia.

f Assembly: Al - le - lu - ia. *Cantor:* Al - le - lu - ia. *f Assembly:* Al - le - lu - ia.

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

Refrain.

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Refrain.

Gospel Acclamation

The Gospel Acclamation, or Verse of the Day, is a Bible verse, often times from the New Testament, that echoes or reinforces the theme or tone of the focus of today's worship service.

GOSPEL *Luke 12:22-34 (pg. 1618)*

The Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 12.

Glory be to you, O Lord!

Setting aside the ever-deteriorating decadence of the world, believers has nothing to fear, for God has promised that he has already given us the kingdom. Instead, we find security and confidence by trusting that promise of God brings real treasure and a deep longing for Christ to return.

²² Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. ²³ Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. ²⁴ Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! ²⁵ Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? ²⁶ Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

²⁷ "Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ²⁸ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! ²⁹ And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. ³⁰ For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

³² "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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.

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, they respond with a joyful acclamation of praise.

PLEASE STAND

NICENE CREED

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 on your phone or computer

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

PLEASE STAND

PREFACE

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 has called us to be his own so that we may live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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

high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes 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

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. It is also known as the "Sanctus," which means "holy."

Words of Institution

As he speaks the Words of Institution, the minister both proclaims the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord's use. The sign of the cross reminds us of Christ's death.

Lamb of God

Jesus is God's Lamb, who was offered as a sacrifice for sin once for all. This song is also known by its Latin title, the "Agnus Dei," which means "Lamb of God."

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 (†) 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 (†) 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

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 - 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 #419 *If God Himself Be for Me*

PLEASE STAND

SONG OF SIMEON



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.

Distribution

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.

Song of Simeon

The Song of Simeon is also known as the "Nunc Dimittis" ("Now dismiss"). Through God's Word and Sacrament, we have seen Jesus Christ, and like Simeon we find divine peace and comfort through faith in the Savior.

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 (†) 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 #735 *Speak, O Lord*



1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you To re -
2 Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, Ho - ly
3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; Help us



ceive the food of your Ho - ly Word.
rev - er - ence, true hu - mil - i - ty.
grasp the heights of your plans for us.



Take your truth, plant it deep in us; Shape and
Test our thoughts and our at - ti - tudes In the
Truths un - changed from the dawn of time, That will



fash - ion us in your like - ness That the
ra - di - ance of your pur - i - ty. Cause our
e - cho down through e - ter - ni - ty. And by



light of Christ might be seen to - day In our acts of
faith to rise, cause our eyes to see Your ma - jes - tic
grace we'll stand on your pro - mis - es, And by faith we'll



love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -
love and au - thor - i - ty. Words of pow'r that can
walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, as your



fill in us All your pur - pos - es for your
nev - er fail, Let their truth pre - vail o - ver
Church is built And you fill the earth with your



glo - ry.
un - be - lief.
glo - ry.

PLEASE BE SEATED



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