

Lv  
Love

Wd  
Word

Pr  
Prayer

Elemental

Pt  
Priorities

Sr  
Service

Se  
Security

The graphic features a light blue background with a grid of hexagons. Various chemical structures, including benzene rings, alkenes, and molecules with atoms labeled 'R', 'H', 'N', 'O', and 'C', are scattered across the design. The word 'Elemental' is prominently displayed in the center in a large, light blue, sans-serif font. Surrounding this central text are several hexagonal icons. On the left, there are three icons: a light blue hexagon with 'Lv' and 'Love', a dark blue hexagon with 'Wd' and 'Word', and a dark blue hexagon with 'Pr' and 'Prayer'. On the right, there are three icons: a dark blue hexagon with 'Pt' and 'Priorities', a dark blue hexagon with 'Sr' and 'Service', and a light blue hexagon with 'Se' and 'Security'.



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](http://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](mailto: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—Priorities

August 4, 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<sub>2</sub>O 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 look at the last of the elemental pieces that make up a believers life: the priorities we have in life.

## 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 merciful God, it is only by your gift of grace that we come into your presence and offer true and faithful service. Grant that our worship on earth may always be pleasing to you, and in the life to come give us the fulfillment of what you have promised; 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: Lee Nelson, Tim Smith

Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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# Order of Service

## HYMN #779 *I Sing as I Arise Today*



1 I sing as I a - rise to - day, I  
2 The word of God to be my speech, The  
3 The work of God to be my joy, The  
4 I sing as I a - rise to - day; I



call on my Cre - a - tor's might: The  
hand of God to be my stay, The  
house of God to be my rest, The  
cry out my Re - deem - er's name: Lord



will of God to be my guide, The  
shield of God to be my strength, The  
grace of God to be my song, The  
Je - sus Christ, my hope, my all, To -



eye of God to be my sight,  
path of God to be my way,  
praise of God to be my best.  
day and ev - er - more the same.

Text (st. 1,2): Anon.  
Text (st. 3,4): Michael Schultz, b. 1963 © 2006 Michael Schultz. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
Tune: ROCKINGHAM OLD (88 88) *Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature*, London, 1778, adapt.

### 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.*

**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 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.**

## 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.**

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

**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.*

## 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.*

## HYMN OF PRAISE

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

### REFRAIN

Glo-ry to God in the high - est!

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God! Glo-ry to God

*Last time to Coda* ⊕

in the high - est! Peace to his peo - ple on earth!

⊕ Coda

Peace on earth!

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

### Verse 1 (followed by refrain)

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we

<sup>5</sup>

wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

### Verse 2 (followed by refrain)

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,

<sup>6</sup>

Lamb of God, you take a - way the

<sup>11</sup>

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

16

— you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.

Verse 3 (followed by refrain repeated twice)

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

5

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

10

Spir - it, — in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

## The Word

### SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift of grace that we come into your presence and offer true and faithful service. Grant that our worship on earth may always be pleasing to you, and in the life to come give us the fulfillment of what you have promised; 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

### 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.*

## 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 *Jeremiah 23:23-29 (pg. 1212)*

*The true Word of the Lord comes like a hammer to crush and like a fire to refine. It is only through such sin-crushing and soul-refining work that we find eternal righteousness in the Word of truth.*

<sup>23</sup> "Am I only a God nearby,"

declares the LORD,

"and not a God far away?

<sup>24</sup> Can anyone hide in secret places  
so that I cannot see him?"

declares the LORD.

"Do not I fill heaven and earth?"

declares the LORD.

<sup>25</sup> "I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy lies in my name. They say, 'I had a dream! I had a dream!' <sup>26</sup> How long will this continue in the hearts of these lying prophets, who prophesy the delusions of their own minds? <sup>27</sup> They think the dreams they tell one another will make my people forget my name, just as their fathers forgot my name through Baal worship. <sup>28</sup> Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream, but let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?" declares the LORD. <sup>29</sup> "Is not my word like fire," declares the LORD, "and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?"

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM OF THE DAY *Psalm 4*

**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.*

- <sup>1</sup> Answer me when I call to you,  
    O my righteous God.  
    Give me relief from my distress;  
    be merciful to me and hear my prayer.
- <sup>2</sup> How long, O men, will you turn my glory into shame?  
    How long will you love delusions and seek false gods?
- <sup>3</sup> Know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself;  
    the LORD will hear when I call to him.
- <sup>4</sup> In your anger do not sin;  
    when you are on your beds,  
    search your hearts and be silent.
- <sup>5</sup> Offer right sacrifices  
    and trust in the LORD.
- <sup>6</sup> Many are asking, "Who can show us any good?"  
    Let the light of your face shine upon us, O LORD.
- <sup>7</sup> You have filled my heart with greater joy  
    than when their grain and new wine abound.
- <sup>8</sup> I will lie down and sleep in peace,  
    for you alone, O LORD,  
    make me dwell in safety.

## 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 *Hebrews 12:1-13 (pg. 1877)*

*The Christian faces the hardships of life head on by fixing his eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Our struggle is against sin and for Christ—so strengthen your feeble arms and your weak knees, focus on the examples of the saints who have gone before us, and run the race.*

<sup>12:1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. <sup>2</sup> Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

<sup>4</sup> In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. <sup>5</sup> And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons:

“My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline,  
and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,

<sup>6</sup> because the Lord disciplines those he loves,  
and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.”

<sup>7</sup> Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? <sup>8</sup> If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. <sup>9</sup> Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! <sup>10</sup> Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. <sup>11</sup> No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. <sup>13</sup> “Make level paths for your feet,” so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

PLEASE STAND

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Hebrews 4:12*

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.

The Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

### Refrain.

## GOSPEL *Luke 12:49-53 (pg. 1619)*

The Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter 12.

### Glory be to you, O Lord!

*The fire of the Word has come to destroy evil and bring peace between God and his people. Jesus warns that his fire will bring division between believer and unbeliever, even within that most intimate of human relationships, the family.*

<sup>49</sup> "I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! <sup>50</sup> But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is completed! <sup>51</sup> Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. <sup>52</sup> From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. <sup>53</sup> They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

The Gospel of the Lord.

### Praise be to you, O Christ!

PLEASE BE SEATED

## 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.*

## 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

## 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, "...let us pray to the Lord:" the congregation responds by saying, "Lord, have mercy."*

...You have promised to hear and give answer to the prayers of Your people, we trust that You will supply all that is needed to all those for whom we have prayed and that You will guard Your Church against all her enemies until the day when You will deliver us into Your presence forevermore; 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](http://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.*

### 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).*

### PLEASE STAND

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 *Christ Begins*



1. We stand and we watch on the bank, wide-eyed. Wa - ter runs and  
2. Ma - ry's whis - per - ing, but it's not the time. Yet six jars are  
3. See the sun out - shined on the hill and hide. Clothes like light - ning  
4. We stand, gath - ered 'round on the moun - tain - side Watch the clo - sing



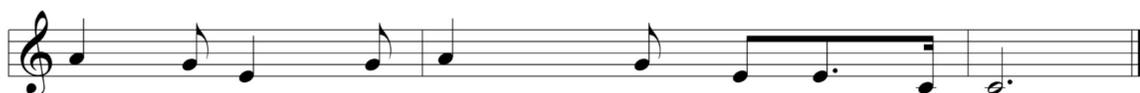
all heav - en o - pens wide, and a voice like thun - der re - plies.  
filled with the fi - nest wine. Tell me who is this by our side?  
white, hea - ven o - pens wide, and a voice like thun - der re - plies:  
clouds hide him from our eyes; with a voice, u - ni - ted we cry:



Here's my Pro - phet, my Priest, my King; A



light in the dark, Christ steps in. Here's my Sa - vior, my



God, my King. The time has come, Christ be - gins.

PLEASE BE SEATED



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