



FOLLOWING

August 19, 2018



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*

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 **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.



TODAY'S WORSHIP

Following

August 19, 2018

The book of Ephesians is an incredibly practical book for Christians at every stage of life. Here we see what the Christian life looks like, and what it doesn't look like. Today, we hear about God's perfect will, how he reveals it parts of it to us in his word, and how his Word then guides us in our everyday living as we follow our Savior.

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: John Armstrong, Braden Keel

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SERVICE OF THE WORD

HYMN | #234 *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

GREETING

~Please stand

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

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 | *Kyrie, eleison*

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.

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.*

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.*

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.

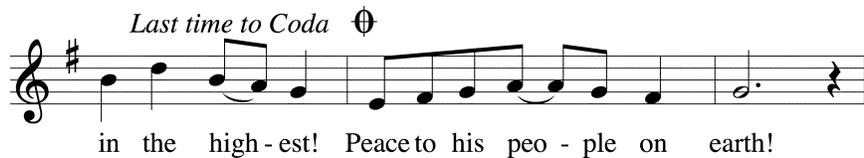
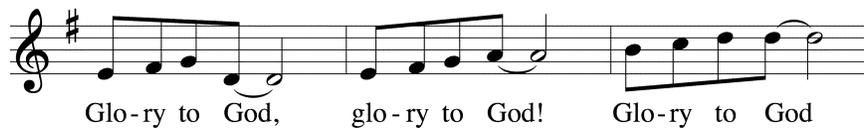
Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

Amen.

GLORY BE TO GOD | *Gloria in Excelsis*

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

REFRAIN



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

Verse 1 (followed by refrain)



Verse 2 (followed by refrain)

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 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,

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.

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 collect for the day asks for one specific blessing. This prayer changes each Sunday, according to the Bible readings for that Sunday.

FIRST READING | *Proverbs 9:1-6 (pg. 996)*

In this reading, Christ is personified as wisdom. He has built his house, the Church, in which he provides the richest food of all, the only real food for the soul. The one who scorns the heavenly food, the real wisdom, Christ himself, will be a scoffer and a scorner, unrighteous in his soul and unrighteous in his life. But where wisdom is the food, where Christ himself is host and banquet, there is understanding of life and its purpose, of death and its goal, and of all that is necessary in between and beyond. Heed the call of wisdom and feed on him in the Word.

Wisdom has built her house;
 she has hewn out its seven pillars.
² She has prepared her meat and mixed her wine;
 she has also set her table.
³ She has sent out her maids, and she calls
 from the highest point of the city.
⁴ "Let all who are simple come in here!"
 she says to those who lack judgment.
⁵ "Come, eat my food
 and drink the wine I have mixed.
⁶ Leave your simple ways and you will live;
 walk in the way of understanding.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY | *Psalms 111*

We praise God for feeding us spiritually with his Word and redeeming us through our Savior.

¹ Praise the LORD.

**I will extol the LORD with all my heart
in the council of the upright and in the assembly.**

² Great are the works of the LORD;

they are pondered by all who delight in them.

³ Glorious and majestic are his deeds,

and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴ **He has caused his wonders to be remembered;**

the LORD is gracious and compassionate.

⁵ He provides food for those who fear him;

he remembers his covenant forever.

⁶ **He has shown his people the power of his works,**

giving them the lands of other nations.

⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just;

all his precepts are trustworthy.

⁸ **They are steadfast for ever and ever,**

done in faithfulness and uprightness.

⁹ He provided redemption for his people;

**he ordained his covenant forever—
holy and awesome is his name.**

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;

all who follow his precepts have good understanding.

To him belongs eternal praise.

SECOND READING | *1 Corinthians 2:6-16 (pg. 1773)*

On our own, we know nothing of the wisdom of God that saved us through our Savior. God, in his love for us, reveals it to us through his Word and the Holy Spirit and makes us wise to our salvation.

⁶We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹However, as it is written:

“No eye has seen,
no ear has heard,
no mind has conceived
what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. ¹⁴The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment:

¹⁶ “For who has known the mind of the Lord
that he may instruct him?”

But we have the mind of Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Through our belief in Jesus, our faith is fed, our soul is nourished, and we are made wise to our salvation.

³⁵Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. ³⁷All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. ³⁸For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”

⁴¹At this the Jews began to grumble about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” ⁴²They said, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I came down from heaven?’”

⁴³“Stop grumbling among yourselves,” Jesus answered. ⁴⁴“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁴⁵It is written in the Prophets: ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. ⁴⁶No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life. ⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. ⁵⁰But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

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.

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.

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.*

APOSTLES CREED | *Credo*

~Please stand

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

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, 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 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.*

PRAYER

~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 | #610 Now Thank We All Our God (verses 1, 3)

~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).*





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