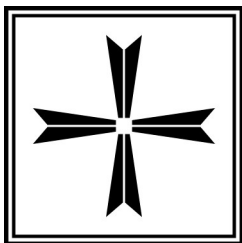




FRUITS OF FAITH: IGNORING MY OWN REASON

*THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 23, 2015*



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

August 23, 2015 | *Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

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

Music: Rhoda Holbrook

Ushers: Roger Benz

Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz

Church Office: (205) 677-8642

Cell: (205) 478-6843

Email: Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

Today we see that believing in Jesus often means ignoring our own reason. The teaching Jesus came to proclaim was a difficult one for people to believe. But all who do receive forgiveness and eternal life.

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:

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.

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.

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.

Looking for more information? If you would like to learn more about Our Savior Lutheran Church...

- check out our information table in the entryway,
- Scan the code to the right with your smartphone
- 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 worldwide 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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DIVINE 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 night: 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.

INVOCATION

*The name of the triune
God and the sign of the
cross remind
worshippers of their
baptisms.*

~Please stand

Leaders: In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- L** 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.

C **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

- L** 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.

C **Amen.**

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).

LORD, HAVE MERCY | *Kyrie*

- L** 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.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

- L** 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.

C **Christ, have mercy.**

- L** 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.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

- L** Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C **Amen.**

"Kyrie" is the Greek word for "Lord." The expression "Lord, have mercy" is one of the oldest responses in the Christian church.

GLORY BE TO GOD | *Gloria in Excelsis*

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.

1 All glo - ry be to God on high!
2 Our grate - ful thanks to you we bring,
3 O Lamb of God, to you we pray.
4 You, Christ, are ho - ly— Lord a - lone;

Your name, O Lord, we glo - ri - fy;
For your great glo - ry, heav'n - ly King,
You take all hu - man sin a - way.
The Fath - er's glo - ry you made known.

We praise you for your peace and grace,
For all, O Fath - er, you have done
Have mer - cy, Lord; re - ceive our prayer;
We by your Spir - it sing a - gain:

Your fav - or toward our fal - len race.
Through Je - sus Christ, your on - ly Son.
From God's right hand, your mer - cy share.
"All glo - ry be to God!" A - men.

SALUTATION

This greeting has deep roots in Christian worship and marks the beginning of the Word and the Sacrament sections of the service.

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L Let us pray:

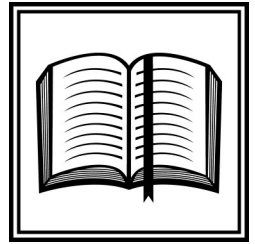
Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift of grace that we come into your presence and offer true and faithful service. Grant that our worship on earth may always be pleasing to you, and in the life to come give us the fulfillment of what you have promised; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

~Please be seated

THE WORD

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



The simple are invited to walk in the way of wisdom.

- 9** 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.

PSALM OF THE DAY | *Psalms 1*

- ¹ Blessed is the man
who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked
or stand in the way of sinners
or sit in the seat of mockers.**
- ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.**
- ³ He is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither.
Whatever he does prospers.**
- ⁴ Not so the wicked!
They are like chaff
that the wind blows away.**
- ⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.**
- ⁶ For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

*Blessed is the man
who delights in the
law of the Lord.*

LESSON | *Ephesians 5:15-20 (pg. 1823)*

Those who are wise
understand and trust
the Lord's will

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. ¹⁹ Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

VERSE OF THE DAY | *Hebrews 4:12*

REFRAIN

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

(Al - le - lu - ia)

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! (hum) **D.S.**

Music: Alleluia II, Jacques Berthier, © 1984, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

C Refrain.

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

C Refrain.

GOSPEL | *John 6:51-58 (pg. 1658)*

~Please stand

L The Gospel according to St. John, chapter 6.

C **Glory be to you, O Lord.**

⁵¹ I 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."

⁵² Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

⁵³ Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. ⁵⁶ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever."

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

~Please be seated

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

Seemingly foolish words of Jesus offer eternal life to all who believe them.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children are invited to assemble at the front for a children's message.

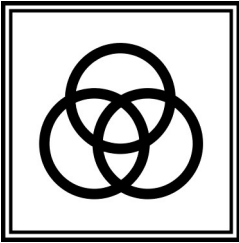
During the singing of the next hymn, parents may choose to escort their young child(ren) to our children's church, where they will hear a Bible story, sing some songs, learn a prayer, and do a craft.

HYMN | #185 *O Holy Spirit, Grant Us Grace*

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

SERMON | *Ephesians 5:15-20 (pg. 1823)*

NICENE CREED | *Credo*



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.*

~Please stand

☒ 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

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

OFFERING

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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

~Please stand

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION



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.

PREFACE

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

L Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up to the Lord.

L Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C It is good and right so to do.

L 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 | *Sanctus*

1 O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How tru - ly blest is

might, Your glo - ry, earth and heav - en In
he Who in God's name is com - ing To

count - less ways re - cite. Ho - san - na! Come and
set his peo - ple free! He comes to bring sal -

save us, Lord God of hosts on high, And
va - tion And with his blood out - poured, De -

in your grace and mer - cy Re - ceive our fer - vent cry.
liv - er us from bond - age—Ho - san - na, might - y Lord!

"Sanctus" means "holy." Used possibly as early as the second century, this canticle was in wide use among Christians in worship by the fourteenth century.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*Jesus took bread and
"gave thanks"
(Matthew 26:26).*

L Blessed are you, O God Almighty, who through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, created all things and made mankind in your own image.

Blessed are you, O merciful Father, for when Adam sinned and lost your image, you did not forsake the people you had created. You sent your only begotten Son to take on human flesh through the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary. As our substitute, he fulfilled all of your laws in our place and died the death we deserve because of our sin.

Blessed are you, O God our Savior, for you have gathered us here to remember Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf. In this meal you give us his true body and blood, which paid our debt to you and assures us of your forgiveness.

For all of your undeserved love toward us, we give thanks and praise to your living and life-giving name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

THIS IS MY
BODY
THIS IS MY
BLOOD



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- L** 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."

As he speaks the Words of Institution, the pastor 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.

- L** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

G Amen.

LAMB OF GOD | *Agnus Dei*

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.

Jesus is God's Lamb (Agnus Dei), who was offered as a sacrifice for sin once for all.

~Please be seated



DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

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.

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.

THANKSGIVING

The "Nunc Dimittis" ("Now dismiss") is also known as the "Song of Simeon." 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.

SONG OF SIMEON | *Nunc Dimittis*

~Please stand

1 O Lord, now let your serv - ant De - part in peace,
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All glo - ry to

as - sured: For I have seen your prom - ised In -
the Son, All glo - ry to the Spir - it, For -

car - nate, sav - ing Word— A Light that will en -
ev - er three in one; For as in the be -

light - en All gloom where Gen - tiles dwell; The bril - liant,
gin - ning, Is now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une

crown - ing glo - ry Of those in Is - ra - el!
name re - sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

L 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.

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.

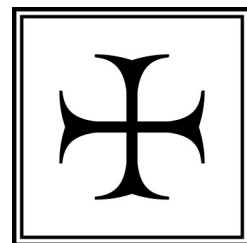
The Lord bless you and keep you.

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



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).

HYMN | #616 *Feed Your Children, God Most Holy*



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