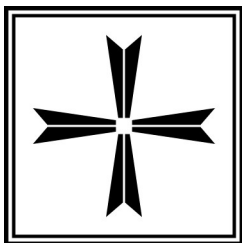


**FRUITS OF FAITH:
TAKING TO HEART;
PUTTING INTO PRACTICE**

*FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 6, 2015*



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 6, 2015 | *Fifteenth 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

Sound / Music: Erik Roberson

Ushers: Erik Roberson, Bob Holbrook

Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz

Church Office: (205) 677-8642

Cell: (205) 478-6843

Email: Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com

SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

After reliving the great events of the life of Christ, the worshipping Church spends half a year focusing on the teachings of Christ. The Church wears green during the season of Pentecost as the Spirit uses those teachings of Jesus to grow the faith of believers. Today we are reminded that we are not only to take every word of God to heart, we are also to put them into practice. God's commands are wise and good and following them is the only way to true freedom. May God's Holy Spirit abundantly produce fruits of faith in our lives.

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 Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father 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,
- 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 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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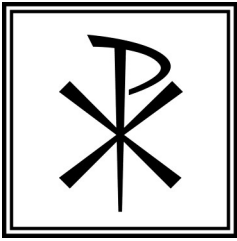
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SERVICE OF THE WORD

GATHERING RITE ON HOLY BAPTISM

God's people long to gather together for strength from God and for mutual encouragement. This alternate beginning for worship is intended for use not only when there is a baptism but may be used on any occasion to remind God's people of Baptism's continuing blessings

~Please stand

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

Congregation: Amen.

Bap - tized in - to your name most ho - ly, O Fa - ther,
I claim a place, though weak and low - ly, A - mong your
Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,
saints, your cho - sen host, Bur - ied with Christ and dead to
sin. Your Spir - it now shall live with - in.

L I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

C Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.


(John 3:5,6)

L Surely we were sinful at birth, sinful from the time our mothers conceived us.


(Psalm 51:5)

C But we were washed, we were sanctified, we were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.


(1 Corinthians 6:11)



My lov - ing Fa - ther, there you took me To be hence -
My faith - ful Sav - ior, there you let me The fruit of



forth your child and heir.
all your sor - rows share. O Ho - ly Spir - it, com - fort



me When threat - 'ning clouds a - round I see.

CONFESSION OF SINS

L As baptized children of God, we confess our sins.

C **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

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).



My faith - ful God, you fail me nev - er; Your pro - mise
Oh, cast me not a - way for - ev - er If words and



sure - ly will en - dure.
deeds be - come im - pure. Have mer - cy when I come de -



filed; For - give, lift up, re - store your child.

L Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless (*Ephesians* 5:25-27). Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

~Please be seated



THE RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM

- Our Lord Jesus Christ gave his Church the command to baptize when he said: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

Scripture makes plain the universal need for Baptism. As children of Adam, we belong to a fallen race. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature and would be lost forever unless delivered by our Lord Jesus Christ. He willingly took on himself the curse of sin and by his death on the cross redeemed us and all people.

Christ’s almighty Word gives Baptism its power to save. The apostle Peter declares, “Baptism now saves you.” Scripture also clearly teaches that the power and promise of Baptism is intended for young and old alike. On the day of Pentecost the apostle testified, “The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” By water and the Spirit, we are born again and united with Christ and his people as members of the Church.

- In bringing Josephine to Baptism, you are doing what is God-pleasing. Jesus himself invited little children to become a part of his kingdom when he said: “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them, and blessed them.
- Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart (†) to mark you as a redeemed child of Christ.



PRAYER

☐ Let us pray.

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father, through your stern judgment the unbelieving world was destroyed by the flood, but according to your great mercy, you saved Noah and his family. You engulfed stubborn Pharaoh and his army in the waters of the Red Sea but led your people through those same waters to safety on dry land. In the waters of the Jordan your own Son was baptized and anointed with the Spirit. By these signs you foreshadowed the precious, cleansing bath which you give us in Holy Baptism.

Clinging to your command and promise, we ask that you would look with favor on Josephine. Through this water of Baptism, drown in her all sin inherited from Adam and any other evil she may do. Set her apart from the unbelieving world and hold her safe and secure in the holy ark of the Church. Keep her always fervent in spirit and joyful in hope so that she may honor your holy name and at last receive, together with all your people, the promised inheritance of eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

☐ **Amen.**

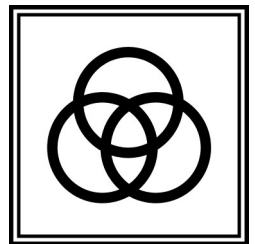
☐ Let us confess the faith of the Church, the faith into which this child will be baptized, the Apostles' Creed.

APOSTLES CREED | *Credo*

☐ **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.



☐ Do you desire to have Josephine baptized into this Christian faith?

☐ Yes.

The pastor applies water to the one being baptized as he says:

- L** Josephine Judith Przygocki, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The pastor, laying his hand on the one baptized, says:

- L** The Almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—has forgiven all your sins. By your baptism, you are born again and made a dear child of your Father in heaven.

May God strengthen you to live in your baptismal grace all the days of your life.

Peace be with you.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO PARENTS

- L** Dear parents, our Lord Jesus Christ, in instituting Baptism, not only commanded that children should be baptized, but that they should be taught to obey everything he has commanded us. I therefore ask you:

Do you sincerely intend to bring up Josephine in the way of the Lord and to instruct her in the truths of God's saving Word so that she may grow in faith, serve God with a Christian life, and remain in her baptismal grace unto the end? If so, answer: Yes, and we ask God to help us.

- P** Yes, and we ask God to help us.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO CONGREGATION

- L** Brothers and sisters in Christ, our Lord commands that we teach his precious truths to all who are baptized. Christian love, therefore, urges all of us to assist in whatever manner possible so that Josephine may remain a child of God until death. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility, then answer: Yes, and we ask God to help us.

- C** Yes, and we ask God to help us.

PRAYER

- L** Merciful Father in heaven, we thank you for the gift of Baptism by which you wash away sin and give us a new and eternal life. Help us each day to remember that through Baptism you clothe us with Christ that we may stand holy and righteous before you. Look with favor on Josephine that she may be kept safe by the gift of your Spirit, grow daily in your grace, and live forever by the power of the risen Christ. Make us willing to carry out our responsibilities to all the baptized, so that all may finally come to the blessed joys of heaven, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- C** Amen.

L Almighty God, the Father of our Lord † Jesus Christ, strengthen you by his Spirit, that Christ, dwelling in your hearts by faith, may fill you with all spiritual blessings.

Go in peace.

All that I am and love most dear - ly— Re - ceive it
Let me con - fess my faith sin - cere - ly, And help me
all, O Lord, from me.
your own child to be! Let noth - ing that I am or
own Serve an - y will but yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

L Let us pray:

O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

ANTHEM | *Water and the Word*

Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved. Therefore go and make disciples of ev'ry tribe and race. Through water and the Word you are a child of God in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Have faith in God and know as a child of God you'll grow And God's gift eternal life you'll inherit.

Teach all to obey the commandments of the Lord. He will surely be with you on your journey in this world. Through water and the Word you are a child of God in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Have faith in God and know as a child of God you'll grow And God's gift eternal life you'll inherit.



Do not add, do not subtract, rather, take God's Word to heart.

THE WORD

LESSON | *Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 (pg. 279)*

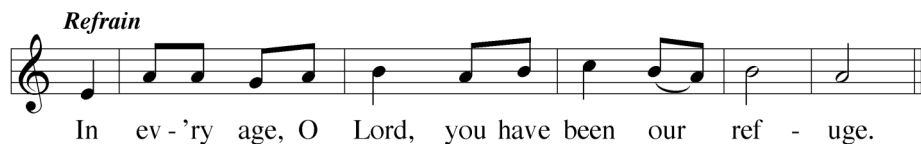
4 Hear now, O Israel, the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you.² Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.

⁶ Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people."⁷ What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him?⁸ And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?

⁹ Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

PSALM OF THE DAY | *Psalms 90*

Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.



Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.

Refrain

You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.

You turn mortals back to dust. You sweep them away in the sleep of death.

The length of our days is seventy years— or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow.

Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Refrain

Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

LESSON | James 1:17-27 (pg. 1880)

¹⁷Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

¹⁹My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. ²¹Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

²²Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does.

²⁶If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Do not merely listen to the Word, do what it says!

VERSE OF THE DAY | Jeremiah 15:15

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 Your words became a joy to me, and the delight of my heart.

C Refrain.

GOSPEL | Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 (pg. 1563)

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

Jesus explains inward cleanliness as opposed to outward cleanliness.

~Please stand

7 The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and ²saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were “unclean,” that is, unwashed. ³(The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. ⁴When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

⁵So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with ‘unclean’ hands?”

⁶He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

“ ‘These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me.

⁷ They worship me in vain;
their teachings are but rules taught by men.’

⁸You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men.”

¹⁴Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. ¹⁵Nothing outside a man can make him ‘unclean’ by going into him. Rather, it is what comes out of a man that makes him ‘unclean.’”

²¹For from within, out of men’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²²greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. ²³All these evils come from inside and make a man ‘unclean.’ ”

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 | #459 *O God, My Faithful God*

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

SERMON | Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

OFFERING

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

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

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.**

~Please be seated

HYMN | #469 *Take My Life and Let It Be*



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.

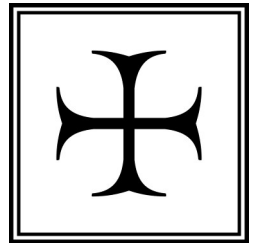
The Lord bless you and keep you.

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



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 | #332 *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*



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