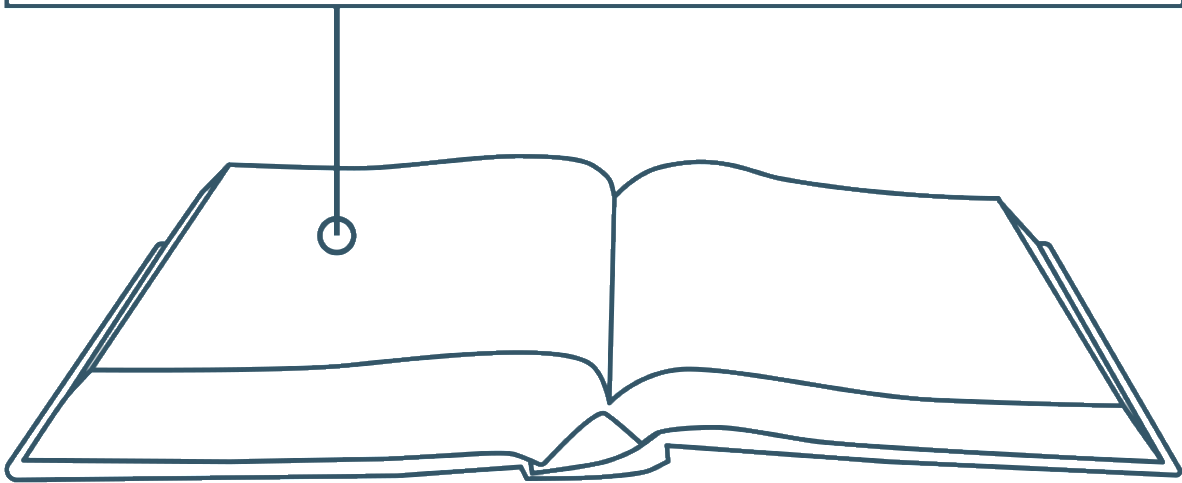


Define: Christian



THE CHRISTIAN IS PLANTED
BY THE WORD

July 16, 2023



Welcome!

Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. We are happy that you are here!

HELPFUL INFORMATION

NEW TO OUR SAVIOR? We are excited that you have joined us for worship today. Our message is as old as God's Word to mankind: Jesus Christ, crucified and risen to take away our sins. If you need assistance during the service, an usher located in the back will be able to assist you.

Please take a moment to fill out a Connect Card—if you would prefer to fill it out online, scan the code with your phone, or go to OurSaviorBirmingham.com/Connect. You can put the Connect Card in the offering plate or give it to an usher as you leave.



FAMILIES WITH KIDS: We think it is important for families to worship together regularly. We know that occasionally, kids are going to have a rough morning. 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 ACTIVITY SHEETS give activities and lessons pertaining to the Scripture lessons for today's service. Ask an usher at the door into the sanctuary.

AN OFFERING will be gathered during our worship service today. If you are a guest, please do not feel obligated or compelled to participate. If you would like to give an offering that supports the ministry work at Our Savior, there are several ways to make a tax-deductible contribution:

- (1) place your offering into the offering plate,
- (2) you can scan this QR code to take you to our secure, online giving site where you can give via credit card or ACH transfer.





BATHROOMS are located at the far end of the hallway as you exit the sanctuary. There is a changing station located in Room 3 (Nursery).

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!

AN AUTOMATED ELECTRONIC DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) is located in the fellowship hall, in the corner nearest the front door.

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 | Sermon archives, podcasts, calendar of events, and more!

 [@OurSaviorBham](https://twitter.com/OurSaviorBham) | Weekly sermon videos and upcoming events

 [OurSaviorBham](https://www.facebook.com/OurSaviorBham) | Weekly sermon videos and upcoming events

 [OurSaviorBham](https://www.instagram.com/OurSaviorBham) | Event pictures and church pictures

 [OurSaviorBham](https://www.youtube.com/OurSaviorBham) | Weekly worship service and sermon videos, Our Savior Kid's videos

 Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com | Pastor Kratz's email

Define Christian: The Christian is Planted by the Word

Planting seed by hand can seem magical. In your hand the seed looks insignificant and lifeless. Yet you put the seed into the soil, and the natural process of life begins. All by itself, the seed germinates and sprouts and reaches to the sun. Except when it doesn't! Plant multiple seeds and often only some, perhaps just a small amount, will sprout. As these few sprouts grow, birds and pests and weeds and weather attack. The reality is that once the seed leaves your hand, you are at the mercy of forces beyond your control.

Today, God uses that experience from nature to explain the supernatural process by which God calls humans to faith through the gospel. The Christian is planted by the Word. The Christian can plant the seed of the gospel into the soil of another's heart. What happens after that is completely beyond our control. Yet God promises us that his Word always accomplishes his good purposes. God's Word is powerful, all on its own, without our help.

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:

Blessed Lord, since you have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Ushers: Doug Vertein, Brent Cox

Greeters:

Audio/Video/Livestream: Benz

Accompanist: Mrs. Betsy Moenkedick

Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz



The Service

Hymn

981 In This Place Your Word Is Planted

Stand

Invocation

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Psalm 32:1-2

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest *Gloria in Excelsis*

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It consists of seven staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff is an instrumental introduction. The second staff begins with the lyrics 'Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to'. The third staff continues with 'God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,'. The fourth staff continues with 'and peace to his peo - ple on earth.' The fifth staff begins with 'Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and'. The sixth staff continues with 'Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we'. The seventh staff concludes with 'praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly'.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to
God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,
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. 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. 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. A - men.
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to
 God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,
 and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Tune: David Kauffman; William Gokelman
 Tune: © 2010, 2021 GFTSMUSIC Publishing Company, Inc., admin. Music Services. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 702194

The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, since you have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated



First Reading

Isaiah 55:6-11

God's Word always works—a seed that produces the fruit
that God earnestly desires

- ⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.
- ⁷ Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the unrighteous their thoughts.
Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.
- ⁸ “For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,”
declares the LORD.
- ⁹ “As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
- ¹⁰ As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
¹¹ so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 65

The Church sings Psalm 65 in services that emphasize the fruits that come from preaching and teaching the gospel.



1 Ev - 'ry heart its trib - ute pays, ev - 'ry tongue its
2 Ev - er while his deeds en - dure our sal - va - tion
3 Year by year, the sea - sons' round sees the land with



song of praise; sin and sor - row, guilt and care, brought to
stands se - cure; he whose fin - gers spun the earth, gave the
bless - ing crowned, where ca - ressed by sun and rain bar - ren



him who an - swers prayer; there by grace may hu - man - kind
seas and moun - tains birth, tamed the o - cean, formed the land,
earth gives life a - gain; sun - lit val - leys burn with gold,



full and free for - give - ness find; called and cho - sen,
spread the skies with might - y hand: far - off shores re -
na - ture smiles on field and fold, gifts of God in



loved and blest, in his pres - ence be at rest.
vere his name, day and night his pow'r pro - claim.
plen - ty poured: all things liv - ing, praise the Lord!

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith
Tune: George J. Elvey
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Tune: Public domain

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 3:5-11

We sow the seed of God's Word, but only God can make
that seed grow

⁵What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. ⁹For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

¹⁰By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. ¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 55:11



Refrain



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My word will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Refrain.

Jesus pictures ministry as a sower scattering seed to all with no regard for where it might land

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ² Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³ Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

¹⁸ “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰ The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²² The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³ But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children’s Message

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

Hymn of the Day

644 Almighty God, Your Word is Cast

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

The Sermon is the Word of God, proclaiming the living voice of the Gospel to God’s people. The preacher is the appointed representative who illuminates the Scripture for the congregation and applies it to our contemporary situation. He is neither lecturer nor entertainer, but a link through whom the Holy Spirit brings law and gospel to bear upon the hearts and minds of the worshiper and enlivens their faith and life.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ² Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³ Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

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NOTES:

Stand

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.

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.**

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

In the prayer of the Church, we pray for those in our congregation and for the needs and struggles of God's people around the world.

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

...Lord, in Your mercy:

hear our prayer.

...through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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. If you are a guest with us today, please do not feel obligated to participate.

Stand

Prayer

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 in heaven,

hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

Mission Statement

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.

Closing Hymn

640 God's Word Is Our Great Heritage

Be seated



THE NEWS @ OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN

Week of July 16, 2023

BARON'S GAME OUTING—FRIDAY, AUGUST 18TH

Experience the thrill of Birmingham Barons baseball together with your church family on Friday, August 18th. Get baseline box seats, a meal voucher (hot dog, chips, soda), all for just \$18 per person. Deadline to order tickets: August 6th. Don't miss out! Reserve your ticket now on our website.



SUMMER YOUTH / FAMILY OUTINGS

Here is our next youth/family outing planned for this summer.



We will have a *cookout and nerf gun war* at church on Friday, July 28th at 6pm. We have 1000 nerf darts—so bring your nerf gun and get ready for a great evening of family fun. There will not only a variety of nerf gun games, but a movie on the big screen in the fellowship area as well. Brats will be provided as well as beverages. You can bring a side or dessert to share. (The grills will be available if you didn't want to have a brat and wanted to bring something else to grill).

GREETERS NEEDED!

We are in need of friendly and welcoming volunteers to serve as greeters during our Sunday services. If you have a warm smile and a desire to make others feel welcomed here at Our Savior Lutheran, we invite you to join our greeter team.

As a greeter, you will play a crucial role in creating a warm and friendly atmosphere for both new guests and long-time members. You will have the opportunity to meet new people and build relationships within our church family. Your friendly presence and helpful assistance will ensure that everyone feels welcomed and comfortable as they enter our church. No prior experience is necessary—just a genuine willingness to extend kindness and connect with others.

If you're interested in becoming a greeter or want to learn more, please let Pastor Kratz know!



THIS WEEK @ OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN

Week of July 16, 2023

Sunday	10:15 am	Worship Service
Monday	7:00 pm	Holy Spirit Bible Class (<i>online</i>)

Sunday (7/23)	9:00 am	Sunday Morning Bible Class / Our Savior Kids Classes (Preschool & Elementary)
Sunday (7/23)	10:15 am	Worship Service

SERVING NEXT WEEK:

Usher: Brett and Penny Muetzel

Greeter:

Church Family: Clean: Boyce-Sauer/Cheek/Densmore/Hudd/Kratz/Panell/Smith
 Snacks: Adams/Cox/Morris

Sanctuary Care: Kratz

OUR SAVIOR KIDS MINISTRY - ALL CLASSES NOW AT 9 AM!

Are you looking for a fun and engaging way to help your children grow in their faith? Look no further than Our Savior's Kids!

Our kid's ministry is designed specifically for children, with age-appropriate lessons and activities that will help them develop a deeper understanding of God's love, their Savior Jesus, and his plan for their lives. Our team of experienced and passionate leaders are committed to creating a safe and welcoming environment where children can learn and grow together.

We invite you and your kids to join us and experience the joy of learning and growing together in community. Come see for yourself why our kids ministry is the perfect place for your child to thrive!

Our Savior's Kids—Preschool & Elementary - Sundays at 9:00 am

Acknowledgments

Setting Three from Christian Worship

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ABOUT US

OUR MISSION

Our Savior Lutheran Church was established in 1969 as a mission church in Birmingham, AL. 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.

OUR CONTACT INFORMATION

1074 Dunnavant Valley Road
Birmingham, AL 35242
OurSaviorBirmingham.com

LET US KNOW YOU WERE HERE!



OUR MINISTRY

Sunday Worship: 10:15 am
Sunday Online Worship: 10:15 am on Facebook and Youtube
Bible Classes: held online and in-person throughout the year
Our Savior's Kids Ministry: online year-round

OUR PASTOR

Pastor Ben Kratz
Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com
(205) 478-6843

OUR CHURCH BODY

Our Savior Lutheran Church proclaims the truth about Jesus throughout the world as a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). We have sister congregations serving the United States, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and over 25 countries through world missions. We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the Wisconsin Synod as well as the churches of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS).

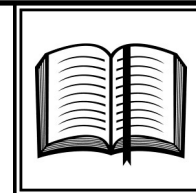


Personal Worship Notes for Kids

What is the name of the church season or special day? _____

What is the color of the church today? Blue White Purple Red Green

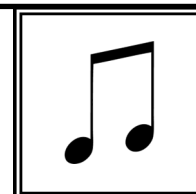
The sermon was based on these Bible verses: _____



This is in the Old Testament New Testament

What was the sermon about?

My Favorite Song was:



Did we have a sacrament today?



Baptism?

- Yes
 No



Communion?

- Yes
 No

Draw a picture of something you heard or saw today:

What did you learn about God today?

1) What did God tell you about himself?

2) What did God tell you about yourself?

3) What did God tell you to believe?

4) What did God tell you to do?



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