



**HE LIVES TO BE THE ONLY WAY TO HEAVEN**

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 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](https://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](https://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](mailto:Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com) | Pastor Kratz's email

## He Lives to Be the Only Way to Heaven

The gospel is the most inclusive message in the world. The benefits of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are meant for every man, woman, and child who ever lived. The gospel is also the most exclusive message in the world, for it maintains that salvation can only be found in one place—the person of Jesus Christ. Just listen to how Jesus speaks: “I am the way and the truth and the life” (John 14:6). Jesus doesn’t say, “I will show you the true way to eternal life.” The prophets and apostles could say that. But Jesus says, “I am the way. I am the truth. I am the life you crave.” And note that definite article: “the,” not “a”! Jesus is not a way into heaven. He is the way. There is no other way than through faith in the One who died and rose again.

The unbelieving world finds this claim—that Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven—to be the most offensive teaching in all of Scripture. Yet this is the very truth upon which Christ builds his Church.

*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:*

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Ushers: Bill and Erich Messerschmidt

Greeters:

Audio/Video/Livestream: Benz

Accompanist: Mrs. Betsy Moenkedick

Service Leader: Vicar Zachary Zuberbier



# The Service

*Stand*

## **Easter Dialogue**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

This is the day the Lord has made.  
**We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

I will sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted. The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.  
**Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.**

I will not die, but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

The Lord's right hand is majestic in power. The Lord's right hand has shattered the enemy.  
**Death has been swallowed up in victory.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## **Hymn**

**627 To God be the Glory**

## **Invocation**

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

**Congregation: Amen.**

## **Confession**

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

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*

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

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## The Word

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## The Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; 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

Acts 4:8-12

St. Peter told the Jewish leaders that the man they had crucified was raised to life and therefore is the only man in whom salvation is found

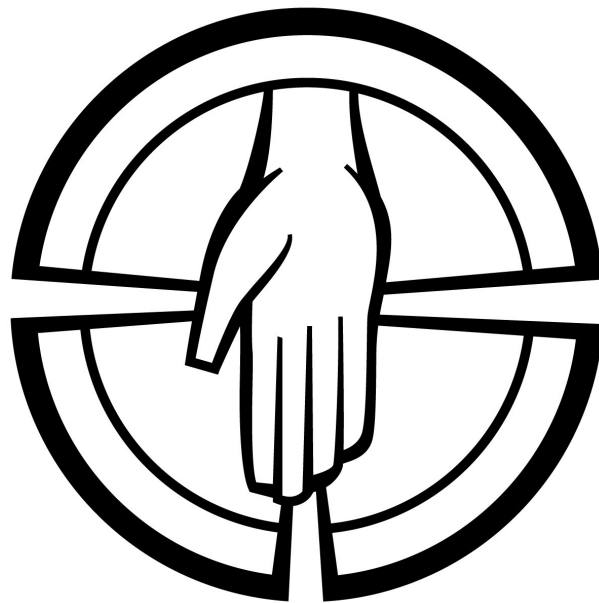
<sup>8</sup> Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! <sup>9</sup> If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, <sup>10</sup> then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. <sup>11</sup> Jesus is

“ ‘the stone you builders rejected,  
which has become the cornerstone.’

<sup>12</sup> Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**





Psalm 118 is the believer's joyful song of praise to God for all of his mighty acts, the greatest of which is Christ's resurrection from the dead.

<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> Let Israel say:  
"His love endures forever."

<sup>3</sup> Let the house of Aaron say:  
"His love endures forever."

<sup>4</sup> Let those who fear the LORD say:  
"His love endures forever."

<sup>5</sup> When hard pressed, I cried to the LORD;  
he brought me into a spacious place.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid.  
What can mere mortals do to me?

<sup>7</sup> The LORD is with me; he is my helper.  
I look in triumph on my enemies.

<sup>8</sup> It is better to take refuge in the LORD  
than to trust in humans.

<sup>9</sup> It is better to take refuge in the LORD  
than to trust in princes.

<sup>10</sup> All the nations surrounded me,  
but in the name of the LORD I cut them down.

<sup>11</sup> They surrounded me on every side,  
but in the name of the LORD I cut them down.

<sup>12</sup> They swarmed around me like bees,  
but they were consumed as quickly as burning  
thorns;

in the name of the LORD I cut them down.

<sup>13</sup> I was pushed back and about to fall,  
but the LORD helped me.

<sup>14</sup> The LORD is my strength and my defense;  
he has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup> Shouts of joy and victory  
resound in the tents of the righteous:

"The LORD's right hand has done mighty things!

<sup>16</sup> The LORD's right hand is lifted high;  
the LORD's right hand has done mighty things!"

<sup>17</sup> I will not die but live,  
and will proclaim what the LORD has done.

<sup>18</sup> The LORD has chastened me severely,  
but he has not given me over to death.

<sup>19</sup> Open for me the gates of the righteous;  
I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.

<sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the LORD  
through which the righteous may enter.

<sup>21</sup> I will give you thanks, for you answered me;  
you have become my salvation.

<sup>22</sup> The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;

<sup>23</sup> the LORD has done this,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

<sup>24</sup> The LORD has done it this very day;  
let us rejoice today and be glad.

<sup>25</sup> LORD, save us!  
LORD, grant us success!

<sup>26</sup> Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.  
From the house of the LORD we bless you.

<sup>27</sup> The LORD is God,  
and he has made his light shine on us.  
With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession  
up to the horns of the altar.

<sup>28</sup> You are my God, and I will praise you;  
you are my God, and I will exalt you.

<sup>29</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.

## Second Reading

1 Peter 2:4-10

The claim that Jesus is the only way to heaven is like a stone over which unbelievers stumble. But that truth is the cornerstone on which Christ builds his Church

<sup>4</sup>As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—<sup>5</sup>you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,  
a chosen and precious cornerstone,  
and the one who trusts in him  
will never be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup>Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone,”

<sup>8</sup>and,

“A stone that causes people to stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for.

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

John 14:6

Alleluia. Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed Alleluia!**

I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**Alleluia.**

## Gospel

John 14:1-11

Jesus teaches that the only way to draw near to God the Father is through God the Son

. You believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. <sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place where I am going."

<sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

<sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

<sup>8</sup> Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

<sup>9</sup> Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup> Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. <sup>11</sup> Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.

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

**469 Welcome, Happy Morning**

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

## Sermon

John 14:1-11

*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.*

*Stand*

## **Credo** *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.

Almighty and merciful God, in this glorious season we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Increase our faith that the message of the empty tomb may fill our lives and make us glad each day.

**When we are weak, be our strength; when we are sad, be our song; and when we sin, be our salvation.**

Remove the hurt of death from all who mourn. In moments of grief call believers through the voice of our Good Shepherd and embolden us to follow his promises. In their hopelessness of despair turn the faithless to trust in the only Way, Truth, and Life.

**Wipe away tears born of death and give new birth to a living hope in the hearts of the lost and troubled. Use our witness as compassion and comfort for others in need of mercy.**

King of kings and Lord of lords, destroy all dominion, authority, and power that stands against you, whether seen or unseen. Whatever evil exerts itself against your saving will--false teaching or lukewarm faith, Satan's lies or worldly pleasures, empty worship or futile religion—rule it for the sake of the gospel's free course.

**Triumph over our enemies and empower the Church to fight the good fight to the end. Never leave us or forsake us.**

Walk among our churches, O Living One, as the faithful witness and firstborn from the dead. As your angel sent women with news of the risen Christ, call women in our church to announce, "He is risen!" As you sent your disciples with the breath of the Spirit, call those in our church full of the Spirit and wisdom to administer the keys of the kingdom.

**Wherever we live and whatever we do, help us to be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us to give the reason for the hope that we have in Christ.**

Heavenly Father keep the baptized united with your Son in his resurrection. Put to death the fleshly urges of those caught in addictions, clothe in your righteousness anyone ashamed of good intentions which have fallen short, and assure those searching for purpose that their eternal identity as your dear children is sealed.

**Thank you for the power of baptism working in our lives, and for the certainty of its promises through the resurrection. Enrich us with everything we need for life and godliness.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

O Lord of life, you have done mighty things for us! We pray through him who is the Beginning and the End, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**His name is above every name, to the glory of God the Father! 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.*

## Hymn

## 461 He Is Arisen! Glorious Word

*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

924 Abide, O Dearest Jesus

*sts 1,5,6*

*Be seated*





# THE NEWS @ OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN

Week of May 14, 2023

## OUR SAVIOR KIDS MINISTRY

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 - Sundays at 9:00 am**

**Our Savior's Kids—Elementary - Sundays at 11:45 am**

## THANK YOU VICAR ZUBERBIER!

A big thank you to Vicar Zuberbie for proclaiming God's Word this morning. Vicar Zuberbie is a third-year student at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and is serving his vicar year (similar to a year-long internship) with Pastor Jon Schroeder at Faith Lutheran Church in Sharpsburg, GA.

## TASTE OF MISSIONS

Register today for Taste of Missions, a hybrid event that will be held on Saturday, June 10, 2023, at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, Wis. Join us in person OR online to get a "taste of missions" no matter where you might be around the world.

The event kicks off with a special worship service where we will commission new home and world missionaries.

You can attend virtually for free and watch all events via livestream, view additional video updates from missionaries, and try your hand at making one of the many ethnic recipes shared on the website. Or attend in person and you will be able to sample ethnic cuisine from some of our mission fields while enjoying fellowship and presentations from home and world missionaries alike. View displays, participate in outdoor family-friendly activities, and ask questions about the ups and downs of mission work during panel discussions. In-person registration is \$15 per person, with children 13 and under attending for free.

Sign up today at [tasteofmissions.com/register](https://tasteofmissions.com/register)!







# THIS WEEK @ OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN

Week of May 14, 2023

Sunday	10:15 am	Worship Service
Monday	7:00 pm	Holy Spirit Bible Class ( <i>online</i> )
Tuesday	6:30 pm	Confirmation Class
Friday	11:30 am	Men's Lunch
Sunday (5/14)	9:00 am	Sunday Morning Bible Class
Sunday (5/14)	10:15 am	Worship Service—Confirmation Sunday

## SERVING NEXT WEEK:

Usher: Bill and Erich Messerschmidt

Greeter:

Church Family: Allison/Armstrong/Baldwin/Haberland/Keel/Roberson  
Snacks: Moenedick/A. Roberson/K. Wright/Vertein

Sanctuary Care: Carol Benz, Julie Adams

## FREE STUFF

The last of the wooden folding tables are available in the Teen room—there are some 8ft wooden tables and a 6 ft wooden table.

All are first come, first served—all are available in the Teen room.

## Acknowledgments

Setting Two 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).

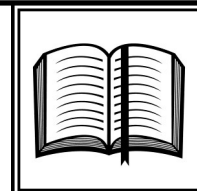


# Personal Worship Notes for Kids

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

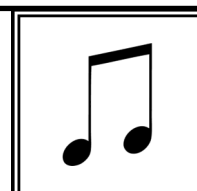
What was the sermon about?

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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?

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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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*[OurSaviorBirmingham.com](http://OurSaviorBirmingham.com)*