



**HE LIVES TO RESTORE MY HOPE**

The Third Sunday of Easter

April 23, 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 Restore My Hope!

Imagine someone you love is near death. Their only hope of survival is a risky brain surgery, one so complicated only one surgeon in the state will attempt it. The surgery is scheduled. But as that doctor drives to the hospital, he is killed in a car accident. Any hope you had for your loved one's salvation died along with that surgeon.

That is how Jesus' disciples felt after his death. "We hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel," they said (Luke 24:19). Their hope for a better life died along with Jesus. They had let their personal wants and expectations cloud their view of Scripture which said that the Messiah's death and resurrection were actually the source of all hope! So, the living Lord appeared to his disciples. He explained. He opened their minds to the truth of God's Word. And in doing so, he restored their hope.

There is little worse than a feeling of hopelessness. Christ's disciples have victory over that feeling. He died, but he is dead no longer. The one who can heal us and give us life to the full lives! He lives to restore our hope.

*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, by the humiliation of your Son, you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; 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, Marcus Kratz

Greeters:

Audio/Video/Livestream: Robersons

Accompanist: Mrs. Betsy Moenedick

Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz



# The Service

*Stand*

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

Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in him will live, even though they die.  
**And those who live by believing in him will never die.**

I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth.  
**I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another.**

Since you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.  
**When Christ, who is our life, appears, we will appear with him in glory.**

Why do you look for the living among the dead?  
**He is not here; he has risen!**

This is the day the Lord has made.  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

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

**Hymn**

**510 In Christ Alone**

## **Invocation**

*This comes from the latin “invoco” which describes the act of calling upon or asking for help or support. As we begin our worship, we call on the name of the triune God, who is our ever-present help and strength and in whose name we were baptized. The sign of the cross then reminds worshippers of their baptisms.*

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

**Congregation: Amen.**

## Confession

*Our God is a holy God, and we are unholy sinners. Before we meet our God, our status before him must change – or he would destroy us. We confess our sins, trusting God’s promise to forgive us (See 1 John 1:9). Our Lord wants to forgive our sins. He sent Jesus to make us “at one” (atonement) with God by dying on the cross for our sins. The pastor makes the sign of the cross to remind us we are forgiven only because Jesus died on the cross.*

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.

**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 meditation and reflection*

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.

**Amen.**

## Glory to God in the Highest *Gloria in Excelsis*

*Purified of our sin, we respond with a song of praise, based on the angel’s song at Jesus’ birth. “Glory to God in the Highest” has been a Christian song of worship since the fourth century.*

The image shows four staves of musical notation for the hymn 'Glory to God in the Highest'. The music is written in a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 3/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Glo - ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the  
high - est and peace, peace, peace, 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, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est and  
 peace, peace, peace, 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 God the Fa - ther: *rit.*  
*a tempo*  
 re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.  
 Glo - ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est and  
 peace, peace, peace, 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.



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

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## The Word

*This greeting has deep roots in Christian worship. Because God has forgiven us, we have a special bond with our Lord and with each other as Christians. Pastor and congregation express this bond of fellowship with a blessing for each other – that the Holy Spirit would bless you as you hear God’s Word and that he would bless the pastor to preach God’s Word with power.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## The Prayer of the Day

*Following an ancient outline, the prayer of the day asks for one specific blessing. This prayer changes each Sunday, according to the Bible readings for that Sunday.*

Let us pray.

O God, by the humiliation of your Son, you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; 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 2:14, 32-41

The message of Christ crucified and Christ risen gives  
the certain hope of forgiveness to sinners

*The First Reading is typically taken from the Old Testament and occasionally from the Book of Acts. In it we learn of God's mighty words and deeds with the Old Testament Church, the people of Israel.*

<sup>14</sup> Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

<sup>32</sup> God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. <sup>33</sup> Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. <sup>34</sup> For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

"The Lord said to my Lord:  
"Sit at my right hand  
<sup>35</sup> until I make your enemies  
a footstool for your feet." '

<sup>36</sup> "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

<sup>37</sup> When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

<sup>38</sup> Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

<sup>40</sup> With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." <sup>41</sup> Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## Psalm of the Day

## Psalm 116

In Psalm 116, believers joyfully praises God for hearing their prayers and rescuing them from death.

*The Psalm is the most ancient part of our worship service. While most of our liturgy is 1,800 years old, Jews have been singing Psalms in worship for 3,000 years.*

<sup>1</sup> I love the LORD, for he heard my voice;  
**he heard my cry for mercy.**

<sup>2</sup> Because he turned his ear to me,  
**I will call on him as long as I live.**

<sup>3</sup> The cords of death entangled me,  
the anguish of the grave came over me;  
**I was overcome by distress and sorrow.**

<sup>4</sup> Then I called on the name of the LORD:  
**“LORD, save me!”**

<sup>5</sup> The LORD is gracious and righteous;  
**our God is full of compassion.**

<sup>6</sup> The LORD protects the unwary;  
**when I was brought low, he saved me.**

<sup>7</sup> Return to your rest, my soul,  
**for the LORD has been good to you.**

<sup>8</sup> For you, LORD, have delivered me from death,  
my eyes from tears,  
my feet from stumbling,

<sup>9</sup> **that I may walk before the LORD  
in the land of the living.**

<sup>10</sup> I trusted in the LORD when I said,  
“I am greatly afflicted”;

<sup>11</sup> **in my alarm I said,  
“Everyone is a liar.”**

<sup>12</sup> What shall I return to the LORD  
for all his goodness to me?

<sup>13</sup> **I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the LORD.**

<sup>14</sup> I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all his people.

<sup>15</sup> **Precious in the sight of the LORD  
is the death of his faithful servants.**

<sup>16</sup> Truly I am your servant, LORD;  
I serve you just as my mother did;  
**you have freed me from my chains.**

<sup>17</sup> I will sacrifice a thank offering to you  
and call on the name of the LORD.

<sup>18</sup> **I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all his people,**

<sup>19</sup> in the courts of the house of the LORD—  
in your midst, Jerusalem.

**Praise the LORD.**

## Second Reading

1 Peter 1:17-21

Our hope is to one day join our Savior in the glory of heaven. Until that day, we live in this world as strangers who are focused on going to our true home

*The Second Reading of Scripture is from the New Testament letters of the apostles or the Revelation to St. John. It stresses Christian faith and Christian living as a response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

<sup>17</sup> Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. <sup>18</sup> For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. <sup>20</sup> He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

Luke 24:32

*Refrain*



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Were not our hearts burning within us  
while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?

*Refrain*

For two disciples Jesus explained that all the Scriptures showed that the Christ had to die and rise. Jesus restored their hope

<sup>13</sup> Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup> As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; <sup>16</sup> but they were kept from recognizing him.

<sup>17</sup> He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. <sup>18</sup> One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

<sup>19</sup> "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. <sup>20</sup> The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; <sup>21</sup> but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. <sup>22</sup> In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning <sup>23</sup> but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

<sup>25</sup> He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

<sup>28</sup> As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

<sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

<sup>33</sup> They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together <sup>34</sup> and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." <sup>35</sup> Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

**Hymn of the Day**

**459 Christ the Lord is Risen Again**

*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.*

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# HE LIVES TO RESTORE OUR HOPE!

Hope is lost when my sight, logic, emotions, and expectations lead me to \_\_\_\_\_  
what Scripture tells me.

God \_\_\_\_\_ our hope by Jesus' resurrection from the dead and pointing us  
back to his \_\_\_\_\_

Restored hope leads to hearts that burn with \_\_\_\_\_, lips that share God's  
\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ that never end!

NOTES:

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*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.*

### **NICENE CREED**

**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 truly 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.**

*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.*

Lord of life, fill our hearts with joy during this Easter season, for you have risen and conquered the grave. Imprint the message of victory on our hearts and implant it in our minds. Through the good news of your resurrection renew our hope and revive our faith. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

By baptizing us into your name, you have connected us to your death and rising. You have put our sin to death and have given us a new life. Enable us each day to think of ourselves as dead to sin and alive to you, so that we may walk in newness of life in all we do. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

In this fallen world, death and sorrow surround us. Touch the hearts of those who grieve the loss of a Christian they love. Direct their eyes to your empty tomb and ease their pain by reminding them that their loved ones will one day rise again. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Lord, many people grieve without hope. Let the message of resurrection reach them and awaken faith in their hearts. Use us as your instruments to bring the word of life to their souls and the message of hope to their hearts.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Stay by the side of all who are suffering. In your wise mercy, heal those who are sick, receiving treatment for illness, recovering from illness or surgery, or hurting in body or mind. [*We pray especially for...*] Remind them that your victory over death is a fact, and comfort them with your promise to raise them and give them and all believers new, glorified bodies like yours. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Risen Savior, feed our faith with the message of your resurrection. Come to us in your Word and in the feast of your Sacrament to sustain and strengthen us until we feast with you in eternal glory.

**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.*

*The music played during the offering today is the "Glory to God" from Setting Three that we will start using in June. It can be found on page 191 in the blue hymnal.*

# The Sacrament

*Stand*

## Preface

*The preface—words of dialogue between the pastor and the congregation—are some of the oldest in the Christian liturgy, dating back to 200 AD. They serve as a transition from the part of the service centered on the Word to the part centered on the meal that Christ instituted.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

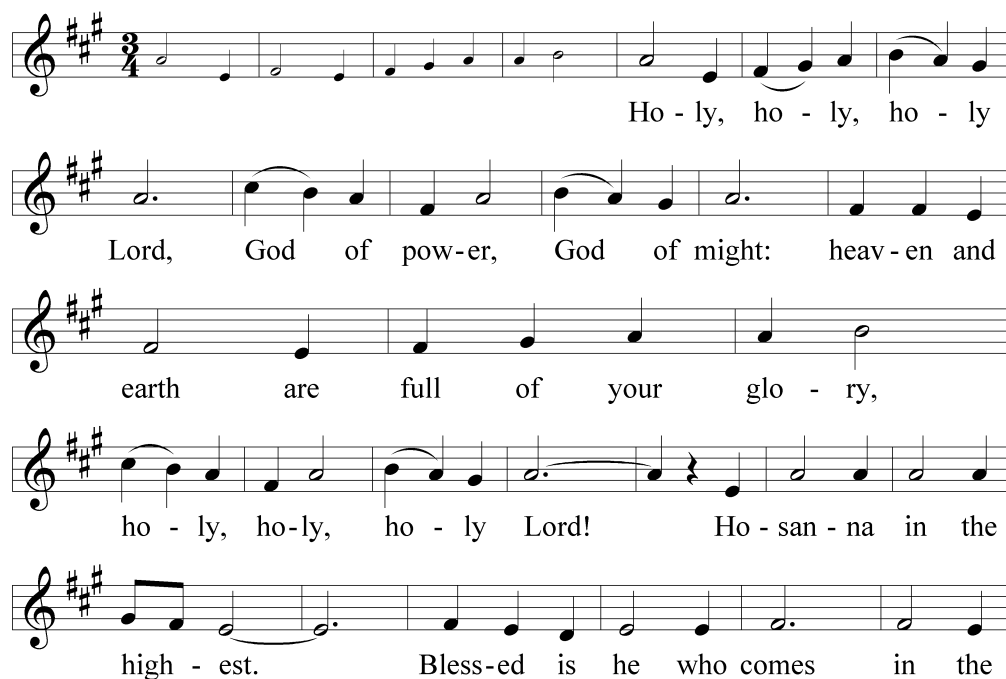
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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 by his willing sacrifice on the cross took away the sins of the world and by his glorious resurrection restored everlasting life. 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*

*Used possibly as early as the second century, this canticle was in wide use among Christians in worship by the fourteenth century. It incorporates elements of Isaiah 6:3 and Matthew 21:9. It is also known as the “Sanctus,” which means “holy.”*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly  
Lord, God of pow-er, God of might: heav - en and  
earth are full of your glo - ry,  
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord! Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the



name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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## Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.  
 By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.  
 By his innocent death, he overcame hell.  
 By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

**Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

*In this prayer, we pray to "Our Father in heaven," reminding us that we are God's chosen and dearly loved children.*

**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.**

## Words of Institution

As he speaks the Words of Institution, the minister 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.

The pastor proclaims peace to the people through the Pax Domini (Latin for "peace of the Lord"). Again, the worshipers receive absolution and assurance that God's presence and peace are with them through the Sacrament.

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."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## Lamb of God *Agnus Dei*

The *Agnus Dei* is the last of the liturgical canticles. Its Latin title simply means "Lamb of God." Believers approach the altar of God by the sacrificial substitute who died in our place. We join with the cry of John the Baptist to the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world and grants us mercy and peace. The Christian Church has sung this text before communion for more than thirteen centuries.

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. A - men. A - men.

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*Be seated*

## Distribution

*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. **Our Savior Lutheran Church asks that only members come forward to receive the sacrament.***

*There is a Personal Preparation for Communion available on page 295 in the blue hymnal.*

## Hymn

## 675 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

*Stand*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

**His mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

**We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us 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.

**Amen.**

The Lord has refreshed us with His Word. Let us head into this new week equipped for lives of service.

**Our mission is to worship God, to spread his Word to our community and to all nations, and to nurture all believers to prepare them for lives of Christian service.**

## Blessing

*This blessing has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years. It is known as the Aaronic blessing because the Lord first instructed Aaron, the first High Priest of the children of Israel, to share the promise of blessing: "So they will put my name on [them], and I will bless them" (Numbers 6:27).*

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

## 512 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

*sts 1,4*

*Be seated*



# THE NEWS @ OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN

Week of April 23, 2023

## OUR SAVIOR KIDS MINISTRY KICKOFF—SUNDAY, APRIL 23rd

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.

From exciting games and interactive lessons to creative arts and crafts projects, our kids ministry offers something for everyone. We believe that learning about God should be fun and enjoyable, and our program is designed to capture your child’s imagination, spark their curiosity, and most importantly, grow their faith through God’s Word.

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 11:45 am**



## HE LIVES! EASTER WORSHIP SERIES

Life is full of either/or moments where you face an unavoidable choice between two alternatives. Some of those moments are relatively insignificant. Either I have the chicken, or I have the fish. Other times, they shape the course of your life. Either I accept this new job offer, or I keep my current job for the remainder of my career. Either I accept his marriage proposal, or.... Some either/or moments are bigger than others.



Here is the biggest either/or of them all. Either Jesus is still dead, or Jesus rose. One might ask, “How does that either/or affect me?” Because Jesus claimed to be the Son of God and Savior from sin. He said the proof is that he would rise from the dead. “The Son of Man must suffer many things ... be killed and after three days rise again” (Mark 8:31). Thus, if Jesus remains dead, he is both failure and fraud. However, if Jesus rose from the dead, he proves he is who he claimed to be—the Messiah. And he did what he came to do—save us.

Either Jesus is still dead, or Jesus rose. That means, either Jesus is a complete waste of your time, or he is your only hope for salvation. If Jesus is still dead, it is completely logical that you should want nothing to do with him. If Jesus rose, it is only logical that he becomes the center and greatest priority of your life. Either Jesus is still dead, or Jesus rose. This season of Easter is a 50-day-long celebration of the fact that the Holy Spirit has answered that either/or for us. We believe this life-changing truth. Christ is risen! He lives! Throughout this season, we explore what that means.

**NEXT SUNDAY: He Lives! He Lives to Be My Good Shepherd**



# THIS WEEK @ OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN

Week of April 23, 2023

Sunday	10:15 am	Worship Service
Monday	7:00 pm	Conversion Bible Class ( <i>online</i> )
Tuesday	6:30 pm	Confirmation Class
Sunday (5/7)	9:00 am	God's Way's Bible Class
Sunday (5/7)	10:15 am	Worship Service

## SERVING NEXT WEEK:

Usher:

Greeter:

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

Sanctuary Care: Jill Bartelt, Kristie Armstrong

## UPCOMING DATES TO GET ON YOUR CALENDAR!

- **Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>**—(10:15 am) Confirmation Sunday
- **Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>**— New Small Group Classes Kickoff Week!

## 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).

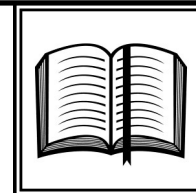


# Personal Worship Notes for Kids

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

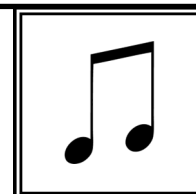
What was the sermon about?

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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?

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3) What did God tell you to believe?

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4) What did God tell you to do?

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