



HE LIVES TO BE MY GOOD SHEPHERD

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 30, 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

He Lives to Be My Good Shepherd

Every culture has the concept of an ideal citizen, someone who typifies its values. For much of the United States' history, the ideal citizen was the American farmer: hardworking, innovative, vital to our collective well-being. Even some of our first presidents were farmers.

For the people of Israel, the farmer wasn't their ideal citizen. It was the shepherd. Sheep were an invaluable source of clothing and food. But they were hard to keep in the Judean countryside. Its sparse grasslands are intermixed with desert. For sheep, food is sparse, but predators are plentiful. The survival of sheep was dependent on their shepherd. There he is. Weather-beaten. Sleepless. Armed. In the dusk, he scans the land, counting his sheep, making sure they are all accounted for, every one of them on his heart. You see why Jesus chose the shepherd to illustrate how he cares for us. He feeds us with his Word. He protects us from that roaring lion, Satan. Jesus is leading us into the green pasture of eternal life. For centuries, the Church has observed this Fourth Sunday of Easter to celebrate that he lives to be our Good Shepherd.

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 Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Ushers: Brett and Penny Muetzel

Greeters:

Audio/Video/Livestream: Roger Benz, Marcus Kratz

Accompanist: Mrs. Betsy Moenedick

Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz



Morning Prayer

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

448 Now Let the Heavens Be Joyful

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

Hasten to save me, O God;
O Lord, come quickly to help me.

Christ is risen from the dead:
praise and thanks to God!

Be seated

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 23

Psalm 23 offers beautiful words of comfort for the sheep of the Good Shepherd.



1 My shep - herd will sup - ply my need, Je -
2 When I walk through the shades of death, his
3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at -

ho - vah is his name; in pas - tures fresh he
pres - ence is my stay; one word of his sup -
tend me all my days; oh, may his house be

makes me feed be - side the liv - ing stream.
port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
my a - bode and all my work be praise.

He brings my wan - d'ring spir - it back when
His hand, in sight of all my foes, will
There would I find a set - tled rest while

I for - sake his ways and leads me, for his
still my ta - ble spread; my cup with bless - ings
oth - ers go and come, no more a stran - ger

mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
o - ver - flows; his oil a - noints my head.
or a guest but like a child at home.

Text: Isaac Watts, alt.
Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, ed. William Walker
Text and tune: Public domain

First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

The Good Shepherd's growing flock gathered regularly around his Word to be fed by him.

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:19-25

Even though they may suffer, once-straying sheep who are now under the Good Shepherd's care are safe.

¹⁹ For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. ²⁰ But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. ²¹ To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

²² "He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³ When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." ²⁵ For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

John 10:1-10

Jesus calls himself the gate to the sheep pen; all who would care for his flock must preach him as Lord and Savior.

10 “Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. ²The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” ⁶Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them. ⁷Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. ⁹I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

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

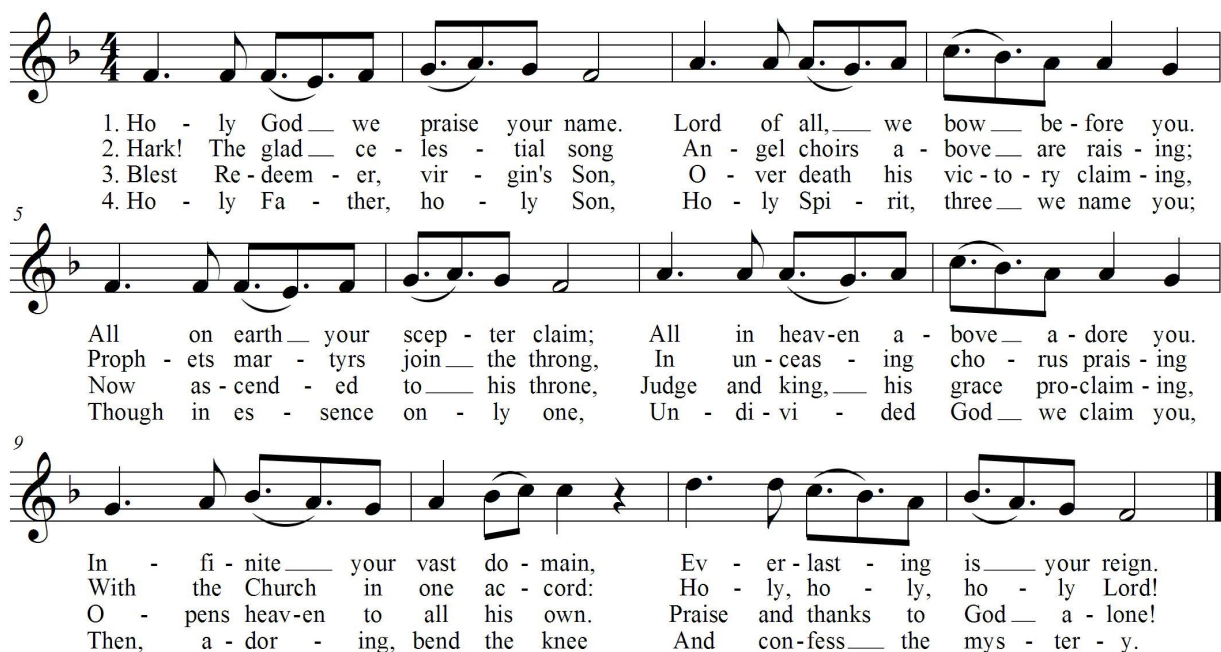
552 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

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

Stand

Hymn

Holy God, We Praise Your Name



1. Ho - ly God we praise your name. Lord of all, we bow be - fore you.
2. Hark! The glad ce - les - tial song An - gel choirs a - bove are rais - ing;
3. Blest Re - deem - er, vir - gin's Son, O - ver death his vic - to - ry claim - ing,
4. Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spi - rit, three we name you;

5
All on earth your scep - ter claim; All in heav - en a - bove a - dore you.
Proph - ets mar - tyrs join the throng, In un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing
Now as - cend - ed to his throne, Judge and king, his grace pro - claim - ing,
Though in es - sence on - ly one, Un - di - vi - ded God we claim you,

9
In - fi - nite your vast do - main, Ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
With the Church in one ac - cord: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!
O - pens heav - en to all his own. Praise and thanks to God a - lone!
Then, a - dor - ing, bend the knee And con - fess the mys - ter - y.

Be seated

Lord, Have Mercy

Hear my voice when I call, O Lord; be merciful and answer me.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Good Shepherd who laid down your life for the sheep. Lead us now to the still waters of your life-giving Word that we may abide in your Father's house forevermore; for you live and reign with the Father and the 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

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger. And in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

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

Let us praise the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

730 Blest Be the Tie that Binds

Be seated



THE NEWS @ OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN

Week of April 30, 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

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 and Calls Me to Live for Him!



THIS WEEK @ OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN

Week of April 30, 2023

Sunday	10:15 am	Worship Service
Monday	7:00 pm	Holy Spirit Bible Class (<i>online</i>)
Tuesday	11:30 am	Girl's Lunch Out at Capella Pizzeria in Inverness Village on 280
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—Confirmation Sunday

SERVING NEXT WEEK:

Usher: Mike Densmore, John Armstrong

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 7th*—(10:15 am) Confirmation Sunday

GIRLS LUNCH OUT

Join us for our monthly Girls Lunch Out! This month we are doing casual Italian & meeting at Capella Pizzeria in Inverness Village on 280 (near The Fresh Market & Starbucks) at 11:30am. Hope you will be able to join us for pizza or just come join us to visit!

Capella Pizzeria has traditional Napoletana wood-fired pizza, 3 types of salads, water/bottled drinks & beer, along with desserts. They have a special lunch-sized pizza @12" - about 6 pieces and the standard 16" size. Hope you can make it!

The menu and information can be found on their website - capellapizzeria.com

They are located in Inverness Village, 4700 US-280 Suite #13, Birmingham, AL 35242 - (205) 438-6108

Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.



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).

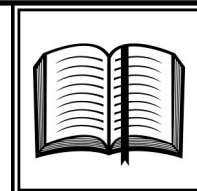


Personal Worship Notes for Kids

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?



OurSaviorBirmingham.com