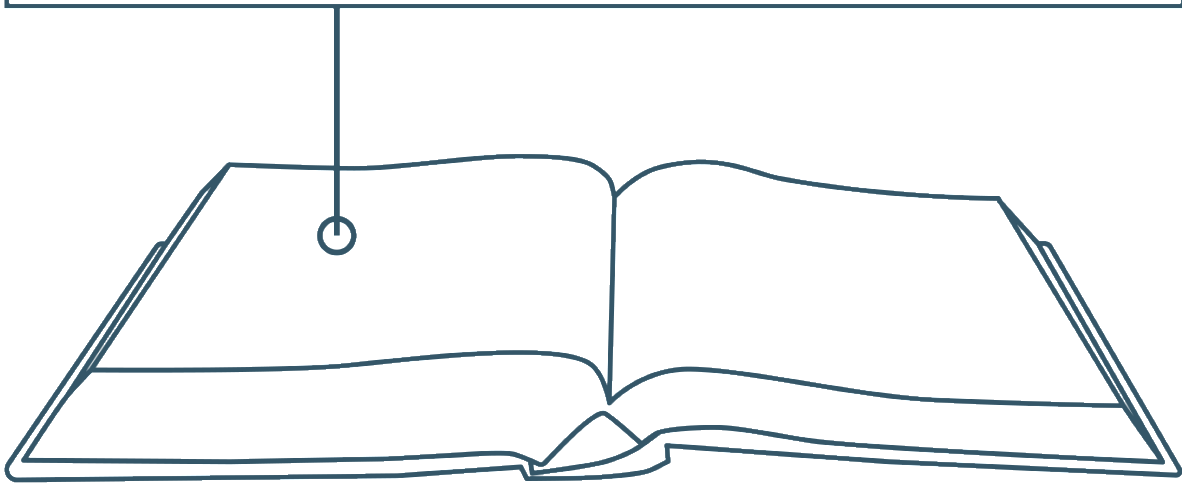


Define: Christian



THE CHRISTIAN SEEKS
SPIRITUAL WEALTH

July 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

The Christian Seeks Spiritual Wealth

What do you consider your life's priorities? If you made a list, what would be near the top? Faith, family, and friends would probably head the lists of many. Financial security and health would be right up there. Reputation and recreation would likely make the cut. But perhaps a more interesting question than "What do you consider your life's priorities?" is "Which of the items on that list would you be willing to sacrifice to save your top priority?" What if you had to give up the whole list—family, friends, finances, health, reputation, recreation—to save just one priority: faith?

This week we are given an honest assessment of what really matters in life. The kingdom is worth everything. Worldly wealth can buy the things of this world, the type of things that rust and decay, things that will not last. True wealth is spiritual wealth. It can be found only in God and his eternal blessings for us in Christ. The Christian seeks first spiritual wealth and will sacrifice anything to obtain it.

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 reveal your mighty power chiefly in showing mercy and kindness. Grant us the full measure of your grace that we may obtain your promises and become partakers of your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Ushers: Mike Densmore, John Armstrong

Greeters:

Audio/Video/Livestream: Robersons

Accompanist: Mrs. Betsy Moenedick

Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz



The Service

Hymn

647 Word and Water, Filled with Promise

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded Baptism when he said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

All of us are born into this world with a deep need for Baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. In Baptism, he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. We recall what Baptism means for our daily lives:

**Baptism means that the sinful nature in us
should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance,
and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death.
It also means that a new person should daily arise
to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.**

As baptized children of God, we confess our sins:

**Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Silence for meditation and reflection

God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit and united us to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Every day God forgives your sins, removes your guilt, and strengthens you to defeat Satan's power. His promise is for you and your children, and he will never forsake you. Your sins are forgiven. You are clothed with Christ. You are at peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

The Gospel according to St. Mark:

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Presley Charlotte Kirk, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart + to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit and has forgiven all your sins. May he strengthen you with his grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

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

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

Yes, and we ask God to help us.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, this child has been baptized into the family of believers, the holy Christian Church. It is our privilege and responsibility to care for the children of our congregation, to remember them in our prayers, to encourage their parents in their God-given work, and to demonstrate a Christian life. If you are willing to do so, answer: "Yes, and we ask God to help us."

Yes, and we ask God to help us.

Let us pray.

We give thanks, most merciful Father, that you have received Presley as your own child and made her a member of Christ's body, the church. Now, we pray, grant to her and to all your church on earth that, being dead to sin, we may live to righteousness and, being buried with Christ into his death, we may also share in his resurrection, so that, with all your saints, we may inherit eternal life; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, you reveal your mighty power chiefly in showing mercy and kindness. Grant us the full measure of your grace that we may obtain your promises and become partakers of your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

1 Kings 3:5-12

The Lord offered to give Solomon anything he wanted. Solomon requested the spiritual wealth of a believing heart that could discern right from wrong

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

⁶Solomon answered, “You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.

⁷“Now, LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. ⁸Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. ⁹So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?”

¹⁰The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. ¹¹So God said to him, “Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, ¹²I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 63

Refrain



In the morn-ing I will sing, I will
sing glad songs to you, I will sing glad songs of praise to
you. I will sing glad songs of praise to you.

Verse

1 O God, you are my God; for you I long; for
 you my soul is thirst-ing. My bod-y pines for you like a
 drv. wea-rv land with-out wa-ter. So I gaze on you in the
 sanc-tu-ar-y to see your strength and your glo-ry.

Verse

2 For your love is bet-ter than life, my lips will speak your
 praise. So I will bless you all my life, in your
 name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a
 ban-quet, my mouth shall praise you with joy.

Verse

3 On my bed I re-mem-ber you. On you I
 muse through the night, for you have been my help; in the
 shad-ow of your wings I re-joice. My soul clings to
 you; your right hand holds me fast.

Second Reading

1 Timothy 6:17-21

Paul warns against the two pet sins of those who have worldly wealth: arrogance and false hope

¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

²⁰ Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, ²¹ which some have professed and in so doing have departed from the faith.

Grace be with you all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel

Matthew 13:44-52

Through a series of parables Jesus teaches the value of spiritual wealth

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸ When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹ This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked.

“Yes,” they replied.

⁵² He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

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

859 Your Kingdom, O God, Is My Glorious Treasure

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



Stand

Your Are God; We Praise You *Te Deum*

Refrain Cantor/choir first time; assembly repeats, then sings after each verse



You are God; we praise you. You are Lord; we ac - claim you. To



you, O Fa-ther ho - ly, all cre - a-tion of - fers praise.



praise, all cre - a-tion of-fers praise, all cre - a-tion of - fers praise.



- 1 With the an - gels in heav - en, **we praise you, we praise you!**
- 2 Cre - a - tor of all things, **we praise you, we praise you!**
- 3 O ___ Christ, King of glo - ry, **we praise you, we praise you!**



With the cher-u - bim and ser-a-phim, **we praise you, we praise you!**
O ___ Je-sus Christ, the Son of God, **we praise you, we praise you!**
You be-came a man to set us free; **we praise you, we praise you!**



With a - pos-tles and proph-ets, **we praise you, we praise you!**
O ___ Spir - it, most ho - ly, **we praise you, we praise you!**
You have ris - en to free us; **we praise you, we praise you!**



With the mar-tyrs and your ho-ly Church, **we sing in end-less praise!**
To the Trin - i - ty most bless - ed, **we sing in end-less praise!**
And with all your saints in glo - ry, **we sing in end-less praise!**

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Be seated

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.

Rite of Membership

Clayton and Amber Kirk, Presley

Stand

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.

Prayer for Grace

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Let Us Praise the Lord *Benedicamus*



Let us praise the Lord.



Thanks be to God.

Blessing



The Lord bless and keep you.



A - men.



The Lord's face ev - er shine up - on you.



A - men.



The Lord grant you peace for all your days.



A - men.

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Be seated

Closing Hymn

827 Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing



THE NEWS @ OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN

Week of July 30, 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 is next Sunday, August 6th.*** Don't miss out! Reserve your ticket now on our website.



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!

GIRL'S LUNCH OUT THIS WEEK!

Join us for our monthly Girls Lunch Out! This month we are meeting Tuesday August 1st at Shiki Sakura in Mt Laurel at 11:30am. They have a varied menu including Asian/Chinese, Sushi & American. Hope you will be able to join us!



THIS WEEK @ OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN

Week of July 30, 2023

Sunday	10:15 am	Worship Service
Monday	7:00 pm	Church Council Meeting
Tuesday	11:30 am	Girls Lunch Out at Shiki Sakura in Mt Laurel
Sunday (8/6)	9:00 am	Sunday Morning Bible Class / Our Savior Kids Classes (Preschool & Elementary)
Sunday (8/6)	10:15 am	Worship Service

SERVING NEXT WEEK:

Usher: Bill/Erich Messerschmidt

Greeter:

Service Team: Allison/Armstrong/Baldwin/Haberland/Roberson
Moenedick/A.Roberson/Vertein/K.Wright

Sanctuary Care: Burkart/Wright

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

Morning Prayer (alternate) 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).

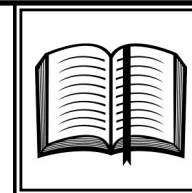


Personal Worship Notes for Kids

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

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

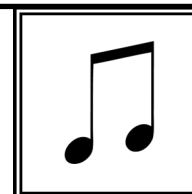
The sermon was based on these Bible verses: _____



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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