

THE CHURCH *God* ~~WE~~ WANT*s*

A CHURCH THAT TAKES UP ITS CROSSES

September 3, 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.



SCAN ME

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 Church Takes Up Its Crosses

Some churches teach that if one follows God, God responds by granting prosperity and peace. Today Jesus teaches that is nonsense. The Son of God tells us that if we are his disciple, if we are part of his Church, we will have to bear crosses. Believers will suffer in this world, oftentimes for no other reason than they are believers. It is painful to struggle against the temptations and priorities of this world. It can be agonizing to face the same scorn and ridicule Jesus faced.

Why bother? We carry our crosses in gratitude for Jesus carrying his cross, one too heavy for us to bear because it was weighted down with our sin. We carry our crosses because we know that in those moments of struggle, we are forced to turn to Christ and rely on his strength. The church takes up its crosses, because this is the Christian path, the one Jesus himself walked: first the cross, then the crown.

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:

Almighty God, your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow him wherever he leads; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Ushers: Brett and Penny Muetzel

Greeters: Stephen/Amy Floyd, Johnny/Renee Culver

Audio/Video/Livestream: Nick Moenkedick, Erik Roberson

Accompanist: Mrs. Betsy Moenkedick

Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz



The Service

Hymn

600 All Praise to Him

Stand

Invocation

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

Congregation: Amen.

Confession

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

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

Psalm 32:1-2

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Almighty and merciful Father,
we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.
We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.
We have done those things that we should not have done,
and we have not done those things that we should have done.
Have mercy on us, Lord!
Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,
according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

Silence for meditation and reflection

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

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest *Gloria in Excelsis*

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

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to
God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,
and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly

Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on

us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the

Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For

you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus

Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the

glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to

God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,

and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Tune: David Kauffman; William Gokelman

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

The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow him wherever he leads; 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

Jeremiah 15:15-21

When the prophet Jeremiah grew tired of carrying his cross and complained, the LORD called on him to repent and promised salvation

- ¹⁵ LORD, you understand;
remember me and care for me.
Avenge me on my persecutors.
You are long-suffering—do not take me away;
think of how I suffer reproach for your sake.
- ¹⁶ When your words came, I ate them;
they were my joy and my heart's delight,
for I bear your name,
LORD God Almighty.
- ¹⁷ I never sat in the company of revelers,
never made merry with them;
I sat alone because your hand was on me
and you had filled me with indignation.
- ¹⁸ Why is my pain unending
and my wound grievous and incurable?
You are to me like a deceptive brook,
like a spring that fails.
- ¹⁹ Therefore this is what the LORD says:
“If you repent, I will restore you
that you may serve me;
if you utter worthy, not worthless, words,
you will be my spokesman.
Let this people turn to you,
but you must not turn to them.
- ²⁰ I will make you a wall to this people,
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you
but will not overcome you,
for I am with you
to rescue and save you,”
declares the LORD.
- ²¹ “I will save you from the hands of the wicked
and deliver you from the grasp of the cruel.”

The Word of the Lord.

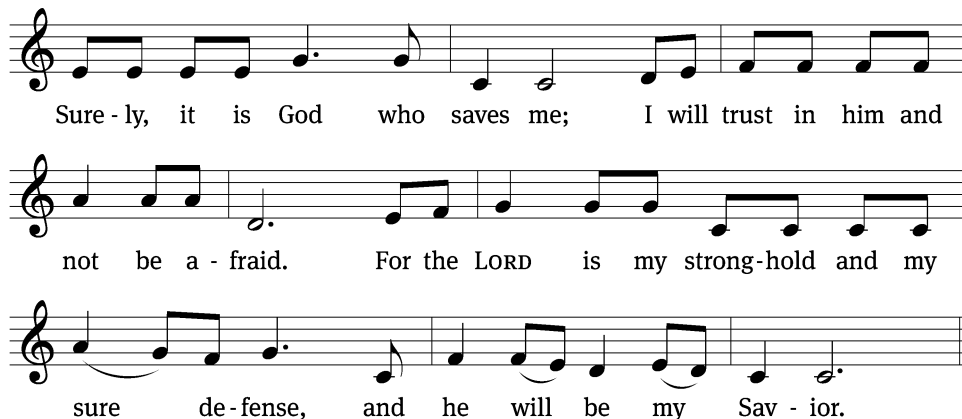
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

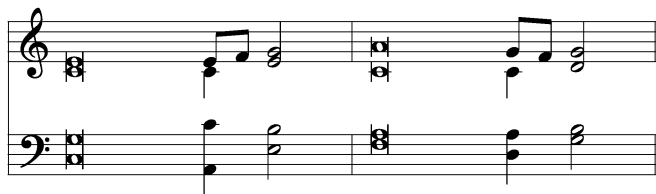
Psalm 31

The Church sings Psalm 31 in services that feature bearing the cross, whether that is Jesus in his passion or Christians taking up their crosses and following him.

Refrain



Tone



In you, LORD, I have taken / refuge;
let me never be / put to shame.
Be my rock of / refuge,
a strong fortress to / save me.
Into your hands I commit my / spirit;
deliver me, LORD, my / faithful God. **Refrain**

My times are / in your hands;
save me in your un- / failing love.
How abundant are the / good things
that you have stored up for those who / fear you.
Be strong and / take heart,
all you who hope / in the LORD.
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain

Text: The Draft Proposed Book of Common Prayer

Tune: Jack Noble White

Text: © 1976 Charles Mortimer Guilbert, custodian of the Standard Book of Common Prayer. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 702194

Tune: © 1976 Jubilate Music Group. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 702194

Setting: © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House, admin. Kermit G. Moldenhauer. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 702194

Second Reading

Romans 8:18-25

St. Paul teaches God's Church that no cross can compare with the crown of glory that is waiting

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 8:34



Refrain



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

Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves
and take up their cross and follow me.

Refrain

Gospel

Matthew 16:21-26

Jesus calls his Church to walk in his path: first comes the cross, then comes the crown

²¹ From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

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

694 Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

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

Sermon

Matthew 16:21-26

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.

²¹From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

²³Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

NOTES:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

DON'T BE SURPRISED BY THE COST

The cost to _____ you was high—it meant a _____

The cost to _____ Christ is high—it means a _____

The crosses we bear are the hardships and sufferings and persecutions we endure as a consequence of faithfully _____ Christ

We endure the _____ now knowing the _____ that waits for us

NOTES:

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.

...Lord, in Your mercy:

hear our prayer.

...All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God 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

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.

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**867 Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near**

Be seated



THE NEWS @ OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN

Week of September 3, 2023

OUTREACH—WHAT IS IT? WEBINAR - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 @ 6PM

A yearly Oktoberfest. Thousands of postcards put in the mail. Are these outreach? In this 1-hour workshop/webinar next Sunday, we will see that outreach isn't simply hosting events and activities or sending out invites. We will define what outreach is (and isn't) and how it fits into our life and the mission and purpose of our congregation.

This webinar / workshop is great for those new to Our Savior, and those who have been here a while, to help us get on the same page about what Outreach is and how it fits into our mission as a family of believers. This is the first in a series of webinars that will help us look at and grow in our Outreach efforts.

IT'S TIME TO GROW IN YOUR FAITH!

There is one way God grows our faith—through the Gospel. This is why regular worship and personal time in God's Word is so important. Another important way for us to grow in our faith is with our brothers and sisters in Christ. The Bible classes offered this fall will not only give you the chance to grow in your faith through the Gospel, but also give you the chance to get to know some of your fellow believers better!

Our fall semester of small groups/Bible classes will begin the week of September 10th. You can see the available classes at OurSaviorBirmingham.com/grow or click on the "Groups" button in the Church Center app. Pick a class and grow in your faith and make connections with the others in your class!

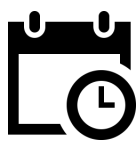
WANT TO HELP WITH THIS YEAR'S OKTOBERFEST?

This year's Oktoberfest is scheduled for Sunday, October 15th. To put on a great event like this each year, we need a lot of volunteer help. (*read...we need YOUR help!*) If you missed the organizational meeting a few week's ago, don't worry—you can still help, and we need your help! To volunteer, you can talk to Christi Cheek (205-613-6831 / christicheek@gmail.com) or fill out the online form on our main webpage (www.OurSaviorBirmingham.com) or in the Announcements link in the Church Center app.

GIRLS LUNCH OUT / MEN'S LUNCH—THIS WEEK!

You are invited to our monthly Girls Lunch Out this Tuesday, Sept 5th. We will be meeting at Ruby Sunshine in Brook Highland (5243 Highway 280 South (Near the Lowe's)) at 11:30am. Hope you will be able to join us! The menu and information can be found on their website - rubybrunch.com

The Men's Lunch will be meeting at Joseph's Table (100 Chelsea Corners Way suite 102, Chelsea, AL 35043) in Chelsea on Friday, Sept 8th at 11:30 am. All are welcome! Hope you can join us! Menu can be found on their website: <https://www.josephstable280.com/main-menu>



THIS WEEK @ OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN

Week of September 3, 2023

Sunday	10:15 am	Worship Service
Tuesday	11:30 am	Girls Lunch Out at Ruby Sunshine
Tuesday	6:00 pm	Confirmation Class
Friday	11:30 am	Men's Lunch at Joseph's Table
Sunday (9/10)	9:00 am	Sunday Morning Bible Class / Our Savior Kids Classes (Preschool & Elementary)
Sunday (9/10)	10:15 am	Worship Service
Sunday (9/10)	6:00 pm	Outreach Webinar

SERVING NEXT WEEK:

Usher: Brett and Penny Muetzel

Greeter: Stephen/Amy Floyd; Johnny/Renee Culver

Service Team: Cleaning: Benz/Gammon/McClain/Messerschmidt/Nelson/Rudd
Snacks: Bumgardner/Burkart/Fischer/Holbrook/Muetzel/Wright

Sanctuary Care: Adams/Densmore

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

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

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

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

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

Acknowledgments

Setting Three from Christian Worship

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