

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

A CHURCH FOR ALL PEOPLE

August 20, 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

“I want a church that...” How would you complete that statement? Would you focus on size—big or small? Would you think more about style—formal versus laid back? Is it certain desired church programs that come to mind? What exactly do you want in a church?

In this worship series, we see that that is not the right question. Scripture says Jesus bought the Church with his blood. So, the right question then becomes: what does God want in a church? You might find a church that runs all the youth programs you want or has a vibe that you enjoy or is in your ideal location. But if that church is not doing what Christ wants it do, then it really is not a spiritually healthy place to be. So, let us think about the church God wants. What does it look like? What are its priorities? What does it all do?

A Church for All People

“All are welcome!” Is that true at our church? Historically, it rarely is true. In the gospels, the average Jewish person would have thought it odd, even offensive, if someone who wasn’t an Israelite walked into their place of worship. Taking it a step further, some of the Jewish religious leaders would imply that church was meant for those who zealously followed religious customs and traditions. Those were “good church folk.” So church was meant for people of the right heritage and who behaved the right way. What about us? Is it conceivable that a stranger could walk into our church and for some reason you would ask yourself, “What is someone like that doing here?” Or, just perhaps, you are asking that question about yourself? “There are some seemingly godly people here. I’m not like them. Do I really belong?”

Today, Jesus shows us that God wants church to be for all people. All of us—regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, or social status—have the same problem of sin. And we all have the same Savior. Therefore, anyone who comes to Christ’s Church and cries out, “Lord, have mercy!” is more than welcome. !

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:

Gracious God, in Christ you bring people from near and far into the fellowship of your church. Open our eyes to your saving plan, and move us to embrace all who seek your salvation so that we may rejoice together at the banquet of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Ushers: Larry Kiker, Tim Smith

Greeters:

Audio/Video/Livestream: Robersons

Accompanist: Mrs. Betsy Moenedick

Service Leader: Mr. Roger Benz



The Service

Hymn

914 Christ Is Our Cornerstone

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 in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It consists of seven staves of music with lyrics underneath. 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".

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
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The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in Christ you bring people from near and far into the fellowship of your church. Open our eyes to your saving plan, and move us to embrace all who seek your salvation so that we may rejoice together at the banquet of your love; 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

Isaiah 56:1,6-8

Through Isaiah the LORD told the world that all God-fearing people would have a place in the house of his Church

56 This is what the LORD says:

⁶ And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD
to minister to him,
to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it
and who hold fast to my covenant—

⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain
and give them joy in my house of prayer.

Their burnt offerings and sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house will be called
a house of prayer for all nations.”

⁸ The Sovereign LORD declares—
he who gathers the exiles of Israel:
“I will gather still others to them
besides those already gathered.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 67

The Church sings Psalm 67 in services that celebrate mission work.



1 You have called us out of dark - est night in -
2 May our ev - 'ry breath re - tell the grace that
3 All the earth is yours and all with - in, each



to your glo - rious light, that we may sing the
broke in - to our strife with bound - less love and
har - vest is your own, and from your hand we



won - ders of the ris - en Christ. v. 2
deep - est joy, with end - less life. Refrain
give to you, to make Christ known. v. 4

Refrain



May the peo - ples praise you, let the na - tions be glad.



All your bless - ing comes that we may praise, may



praise the name of Je - sus.

4 May the seeds of mercy grow in us for those who have not heard.
May songs of praise build lives of grace to spread your Word. (Refrain)

5 This our holy priv'lege to declare your praises and your name
to ev'ry nation, tribe, and tongue, your church proclaim. (Final Refrain)

Final Refrain

May the peoples praise you, let the nations be glad.
All your blessing comes that we may praise, may praise the name of Jesus.
May the peoples praise you, let the nations be glad.
All your blessing comes that we may praise, may praise the name of Jesus.

Text: Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend, Ed Cash, David Zimmer
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Second Reading

Ephesians 2:13-22

Christ takes foreigners and strangers and, upon the foundation of God's Word, builds them into a holy temple—his Church

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Reference



Refrain



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But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away
have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Refrain

Gospel

Matthew 15:21-28

In the face of Jesus' test a Canaanite woman demonstrates great faith, proving that God's Church is meant for all people

²¹ Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²² A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly."

²³ Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us."

²⁴ He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."

²⁵ The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said.

²⁶ He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

²⁷ "Yes it is, Lord," she said. "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table."

²⁸ Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed at that moment.

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

855 The Church's One Foundation

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.

²¹ Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²² A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly."

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THIS IS A GREAT FAITH

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.

Hymn

768 Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace

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

860 In Christ There Is No East or West

Be seated



THE NEWS @ OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN

Week of August 20, 2023

NEW FALL SMALL GROUPS / BIBLE CLASSES—SIGN UP NOW!

Whether you're a seasoned Christian or just beginning to grow in your faith, our new semester of Small Groups and Bible Classes are designed to help you dive deep into God's Word, share personal insights, and grow in your faith. Each of the classes will guide you through thought-provoking discussions, explore teachings of the Bible and their relevance to your daily life, all while building meaningful connections with fellow believers.

For more information and to sign up for a class, head to OurSaviorBirmingham.com/grow, or click on the "Groups" button in our Church Center app.



THIS WEEK @ OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN

Week of August 20, 2023

Sunday	10:15 am	Worship Service
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Sunday (8/27)	9:00 am	Sunday Morning Bible Class / Our Savior Kids Classes (Preschool & Elementary)
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Sunday (8/27)	10:15 am	Worship Service
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SERVING NEXT WEEK:

Usher: Doug Vertein, Brent Cox

Greeter:

Church Family: Allison/Armstrong/Baldwin/Haberland/Roberson
 Moenkedick/A.Roberson/Vertein/K.Wright

Sanctuary Care: Burkart/Wright

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 & Elementary - Sundays at 9:00 am

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).

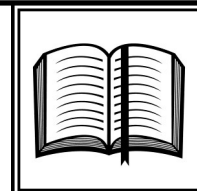


Personal Worship Notes for Kids

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

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

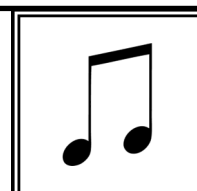
The sermon was based on these Bible verses: _____



This is in the Old Testament New Testament

What was the sermon about?

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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