

## A CHURCH THAT IS QUICK TO FORGIVE

**September 17, 2023** 



# Welcome!

Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. We are happy that you are here!

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 <a href="OurSaviorBirmingham.com/Connect">OurSaviorBirmingham.com/Connect</a>. 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!
- **y @OurSaviorBham** ∣ Weekly sermon videos and upcoming events
- **f** OurSaviorBham | Weekly sermon videos and upcoming events
- OurSaviorBham | Event pictures and church pictures
- OurSaviorBham | Weekly worship service and sermon videos, Our Savior Kid's videos
- **☑ Pastor@OurSaviorBirmingham.com** | Pastor Kratz's email

## A Church that is Quick to Forgive

"Pay it forward." That phrase means that when someone does something for you, instead of paying that person back directly, you pass along kindness to another person instead. Doing something kind for someone else is a way of thanking the person who originally did something kind for you.

Today God applies that concept to forgiveness. God forgave our countless sins. He was willing to pay an incomprehensible price—the death of his Son. Obviously, we will never have occasion do the same for God. We will never have to forgive God because everything he does for us shows perfect love and care. God never wrongs us. But others may do us wrong. Others may cause us pain. And when we are quick to forgive, it is one way we thank God for being so quick to forgive us. This is what God wants in his Church—people who, like him, are quick to forgive!

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:

Lord God, heavenly Father, you graciously forgive us all our sins and abundantly provide for all our needs of body and soul. Give us confidence in your mercy, and teach us also to be merciful to our neighbor, that we willingly forgive all people, and judging only ourselves, lead blessed lives to your 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: Bill and Erich Messerschmidt

Greeters: Stephen/Amy Floyd, Johnny/Renee Culver

Audio/Video/Livestream: Roberson Accompanist: Mrs. Betsy Moenkedick

Service Leader: Pastor Ben Kratz



Hymn 579 His Mercy Is More

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





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## The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

## The Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, you graciously forgive us all our sins and abundantly provide for all our needs of body and soul. Give us confidence in your mercy, and teach us also to be merciful to our neighbor, that we willingly forgive all people, and judging only ourselves, lead blessed lives to your glory; 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 Genesis 50:15-21

Joseph's brothers had treated him badly. Joseph was quick to forgive them and free them from the prison of their past

<sup>15</sup> When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" <sup>16</sup> So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: <sup>17</sup> 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

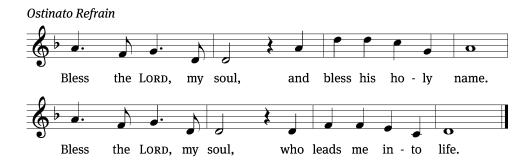
<sup>18</sup> His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

<sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. <sup>21</sup> So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Church sings Psalm 103 in services that emphasize Jesus forgiving our sins and giving us confidence and strength against the devil and the world.



#### (verses are sung while the congregation sings the refrain.

- 1 It is God who forgives all your guilt, who heals ev'ry one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion.
- The LORD is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.God does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults.
- 3 As a father has compassion on his children, the LORD has pity on those who fear him; for God knows of what we are made, and remembers that we are dust.

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Second Reading Ephesians 4:29-5:2

St. Paul teaches that kindness, compassion, and forgiveness are marks of God's Church

<sup>29</sup> Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

**5** Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup> and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### Stand

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

Colossians 3:13



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Bear with each other and forgive one another.

Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

#### Refrain.

Gospel Matthew 18:21-35

Through a parable Jesus teaches that the ability to forgive others comes when the Spirit enables us to understand how much God has forgiven us

<sup>21</sup>Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

<sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup> "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup> As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. <sup>25</sup> Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

<sup>26</sup> "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' <sup>27</sup> The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

<sup>28</sup> "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.

<sup>29</sup> "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.'

<sup>30</sup> "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. <sup>31</sup> When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

<sup>32</sup> "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. <sup>33</sup> Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' <sup>34</sup> In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

<sup>35</sup> "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

587 Come Down, O Love Divine

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

Sermon Matthew 18:21-35

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.

- <sup>21</sup>Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"
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- <sup>35</sup> "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

NOTES:		

# **FORGIVENESS HAS LIMITS**

Forgive only as	as God forgives you
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Forgive only as	_ as God forgives you
Forgive only as	as God forgives you
NOTES:	

#### 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.

#### **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.

...Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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.

#### **Reception of New Members**

Zach and Mary Grace Guest, Wyatt, Evelyn

#### Hymn

#### 733 Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

#### Stand

#### **Prayer**

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, 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**

731 Oh, How Good It Is

#### 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.

#### IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO GROW IN YOUR FAITH!

Our fall semester of small groups/Bible classes began this past week. But, IT IS NOT TO LATE TO JUMP INTO ANY OF THE CLASSES! You can see the available classes at <a href="OurSaviorBirmingham.com/grow">OurSaviorBirmingham.com/grow</a> or click on the "Groups" button in the Church Center app. Pick a class and grow in your faith and make connections with your fellow believers in your class!

#### MISSIONS SUNDAY—SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1ST

7.6 billion people inhabit this earth. 362 million of those reside in the United States and Canada. We have before us the largest mission field the world has ever seen. There are so many in this world who do not know that Christ's love is God's gift to us all. For this reason, WELS Missions is eager to carry out our calling to preach the Good News to every neighbor, and in every nation. Into a world that desperately needs it, our home and world missionaries and national church partners bring the light of God's Word. With this powerful tool deployed and in the hands of the Lord of the Church, our work is bearing much fruit. The Lord has been using WELS Missions to share the gospel in expected and unexpected places. God still opens doors. We will have Pastor Jonathan Scharf with us on Sunday, October 1st, and will give us a special missions presentation during the Bible class hour and preach for our special Missions Sunday service.

#### 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



# THIS WEEK @ OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN Week of September 17, 2023

Sunday	10:15 am	Worship Service
Monday	7:00 pm	Sanctification Bible Class (Online)
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Confirmation Class
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Looking Forward to Sunday Bible Class (Online)
Thursday	7:00 pm	The Meaningful Life—A Study on If God Matters (Online)
Sunday (9/24)	9:00 am	Sunday Morning Bible Class / Our Savior Kids Classes (Preschool & Elementary)
Sunday (9/24)	10:15 am	Worship Service
	-	

#### **SERVING NEXT WEEK:**

Usher: Doug Vertein, Tim Smith

Greeter: Stephen/Amy Floyd; Johnny/Renee Culver

Cleaning: Benz/Gammon/McClain/Messerschmidt/Nelson/Rudd Service Team:

Snacks: Bumgardner/Burkart/Fischer/Holbrook/Muetzel/Wright

Sanctuary Care: Adams/Densmore

## **Acknowledgments**

Setting Three 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**

#### **LET US KNOW YOU WERE HERE!**

1074 Dunnavant Valley Road Birmingham, AL 35242 OurSaviorBirmingham.com



#### **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 wells 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?  Communion?  Yes  No  No						
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?						



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