

# Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Aberfoyle Park

## Home Worship Service

Led by Pastor Andy Kowald

January 30, 2022

---

### Welcome & Introduction

Jesus said, *Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown...*

What could that mean for US?

Obviously Jesus is not walking around today like He did 2,000 years ago. But He DID say, that after He ascended, WE would be His body on earth. This is OUR hometown. If we speak Jesus' words ... will they be accepted?

Over these coming weeks we are looking forward to our schools opening up around the country.

Our church has a school – the Our Saviour Lutheran School.

Why do we have a school...?

For one thing, like every other school in the country we are looking forward to our children being educated. And we strive hard for that to happen. But that's not why our church has a school.

We have a school, because in addition to teaching kids about maths and English and science and history, etc... we want to show the world what life is like when GOD is in charge of our hearts!

And God particularly sees the needs of the poor and broken hearted and those who always feel like they are missing out! When we pay attention to THAT in our school, when we care for those who feel like they are missing out, we are like a prophet, shining the light of God to the world!

This sounds great!

But it's not what our world promotes!

- It IS what people need!
- It IS what God intended!
- It IS what is TRULY good for us... THEY even see that!

But the call of the world is about SELF.

The call of the world does not imagine that **GOD** has anything to do with us becoming better!

The call of the world is not so keen about the needs of the OTHER person, and so, even in the face of good results, many people actually turn their back on Jesus.

As magnificent as Jesus was in the lives of the people – you will soon hear a Bible reading which says, <sup>22</sup> **All spoke well of Jesus and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips** – as magnificent as Jesus was, the people could not believe that Jesus was capable of the healing things they heard that He did ... unless they could press His buttons and make Him do it in front of them!

It's like you saying to your friends that an amazing thing happened the other day. You prayed for someone to be healed and they were! You could hardly believe it yourself, but it happened! The next thing THEY want to see, is for it to be done right there and then for them too! We want to treat prayer as if it is like pressing a button!

Our school DOES have a Godly affect on our community. But if you don't have eyes of faith, you won't easily see it!

Jesus is not put off by this negativity. He is quite capable of moving on unscathed – healing wherever His heavenly Father leads Him.

And He's still doing the same for us, and through us...

I'm going to talk more about that this morning...

We worship in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

---

## Songs

[Put Your Hands Up](#) CCLI#6437552

[Nobody Loves me Like You](#) CCLI#7117604

---

## Bible Reading

### **Luke 4:22-32**

<sup>22</sup> All spoke well of Jesus and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked. <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself!' And you will tell me, 'Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.'" <sup>24</sup> "Truly I tell you," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown. <sup>25</sup> I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. <sup>26</sup> Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. <sup>27</sup> And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian." <sup>28</sup> All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. <sup>29</sup> They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. <sup>30</sup> But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

---

## Message

When I lived in the Barossa, our kids went to Faith School – a Lutheran high school. We used to love going to the school musicals. Our kids and their friends used to sing in the lead roles we all thought they were great. One of the male singers was a person by the name of Daniel Koeck (pronounced 'cook')

Let me read you something about Daniel I got off the internet this week...

*Daniel has starred on London's West End, landed leading roles in international touring musicals, wowed audiences onstage at the Sydney Opera House and performed alongside musical theatre royalty. He is one of the youngest men to play the title role of Jean Valjean in the **West End production of Les Miserables**,*

When I listened to him in the school musicals, I thought he was great. But a voice that would be recognised around the world...? I never had that sort of imagination! I was wrong, of course! He certainly IS on top of the world as a singer. But I would not have seen it back then.

Probably closer to home, is Jamie...

Jamie had such confidence in God! Jamie was a bubble of enthusiasm for God! He would walk the city streets in the evening and bring hope to the broken hearted! He would tell them GOD was now in their lives. Anyone who knew Jamie was attracted to this about him...

But when the rubber hit the road, how serious did I really take him? He made us feel awkward! *If I spoke like him*, how would my friends now speak about ME!



And it's a church issue!

In our Bible reading Jesus was clearly speaking to worshippers in the synagogue. They had an understanding of what made them feel comfortable, and Jesus was upsetting that!

Jesus had just told the worshippers that He had come to preach God's favour on people. GOD IS IN FAVOUR OF PEOPLE! ALL PEOPLE!!! To set people free from their sins. To heal people. To favour us!

Verse 22 says, **All spoke well of Him...** Jesus had amazing words and amazing authority.

But then, IN THE SAME VERSE, we read that they were confused about Him! Verse 28 says they even got furious with Him. (v28)

***22 All spoke well of Jesus and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.***

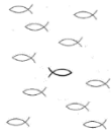
They obviously didn't hold Joseph in such high regard!!! We know that GOD DID! God chose Joseph to be the earthly dad for His Son Jesus.

Why did they feel this way?

- Because they grew up with Him!

- How can this young man, that THEY grew up with, possibly bring God's favour to us!!! That would require a great prophet! Someone full of the Holy Spirit! Not a carpenter's son!

Look at this picture...



I wonder how often Jesus felt like this...

Like a fish swimming against the direction of all the others!

We face the same issue in OUR lives!

For example...

When we say that we believe that Jesus heals, what are we saying?

If we actually mean it, then people will want to see the evidence of it. Maybe disbelieve us!!! Even our friends!

Believing people understand the following...

1. there is nothing wrong with doctors ... and there is nothing wrong with going to doctors ...

The person who wrote today's Gospel reading, Luke, WAS a doctor himself! (Paul tells us this in Colossians 4:14, ***Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings.***)

2. but, the God's Word tells us that Jesus came HEALING. God's Word tells us that He called His disciples to heal, and ***that includes US***. The last few verses of Mark (16:15-18) tells us to believe and be baptised and various signs will accompany those who believe. He finishes by saying ***they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.***

3. God does not replace the natural. We still are expected to eat and sleep. Eating is a good health tablet. Sleeping is a good health tablet. We still have doctors and medicine... But God also heals people as a special favour. HE DESIRES TO FAVOUR US! And He does it through you and me! As we get close to Him, and He gets close to us! As James 4:8 says, ***Come near to God and he will come near to you.*** He fills us with the SAME Spirit He gave Jesus!

But pray for someone... and they get healed... try to tell that to someone who doubts... even in the church!

Jesus also faced this, and especially from those in His hometown, though we know that His Mum and brothers and sisters eventually believed in Him.

At our church we offer a life that GOD desires. A life of love and fun and care for each other. And not just for ourselves, but even for those WE might think don't deserve it! Or feel they don't belong. And where we fall short, we offer a life of repentance and forgiveness, always desiring to know God and be led by HIM!

At our school it's the same! Education yes! But not without the love and fun and care that God fills us with. And not just a good time for ourselves, but also for those who WE think don't deserve it! Who might feel they don't belong.

We desire the miracle that our neighbours and school friends and families would ALL know God and love Him. **But every now and then we join the crowd in Jesus' home church and think it's a pipe dream!** How can ordinary parents and ordinary teachers and ordinary friends possibly create only what GOD can create? We might even feel like giving up! We might even feel a bit angry that Jesus hasn't turned up the way WE thought He should!

But Jesus keeps acting with the same grace that they recognized 2,000 years ago. And with the same untamed uncontrolled-by-us surprises...

I once led a prayer time for 20 people who were completing an Alpha course. It's a course that introduces the Christian life...

I said, *Let's ask God for anything we need...*

- The first couple came forward and said that they were having trouble falling pregnant. Can you pray that we have a baby...!

I felt inadequate to say the least. But I had promised to pray whatever they asked... I tell you the honest truth: they had their baby in 9 months from that moment! *Have I prayed this for others on other occasions? Yes! With the same result? No! Why not? I don't know! But we must still pray!*

- There were nine requests in all on that evening. The last one was a young mum who had 3 children. Her request was: I want God to change my kids... *What...!* They had obviously been giving her a hard time.

I felt like saying I can't pray that! I can pray for you to have more patience, of more wisdom... But I had promised to pray for whatever they asked. So I did. This was on Saturday night. On Monday morning, two days later, the woman came running into my office in tears: ***They're changed! They're changed! Thank you. Thank you.***

I said don't thank me...! I was left thinking, "God even answers prayers in ways that we think He shouldn't answer them!"

Resistance to God and how He acts DOES come.

Our trust in God is not always picked up by others.

They might even get angry at us, as they did with Jesus.

In those moments we remember Jesus – God's GRACE personified!

You can be certain that resistance WILL happen. Why? Because, like Jesus, you have accepted to bring the Good News, and the Devil is not happy about this! And so you will meet resistance.

When this happens, take authority over your mind and heart. You belong to Christ. And HE will never let you down. With Him you have a life, the only life. With Him you will overcome. With Him the crowd are going the wrong way. God favours you. And it is HIS favour that you are offering. Encourage each other in this. In your families. In your life groups. Whenever you meet!

---

## Song

Jesus CCLI#7067249

---

## Confession and Absolution

**Pastor:** Before the crowd took Jesus to throw Him off the cliff, Jesus had just told them that He had come to heal them and to set them free from their sins. It's not a part of our human flesh to love being told that we are sinners! But God's Word tells us that we ARE sinners... but also that Jesus' death has paid the price, and that through His blood, we are cleaned from our sins! We now get honest about our lives, confident, through Jesus, in the grace of God...

**People:** Dear heavenly Father,  
In Jesus, You have brought us into the Church of Your love and grace that lasts forever. But, as Your Word tells us, we also carry inside us the doubts of Your church of old. Like the church of old, we even desire to reject the grace and presence of Your Son in our lives. We even disbelieve it when You work Your healing through ordinary Christian believers... then we judge You when you don't heal the way WE want You to. Somehow we imagine that You are not interested in ALL our needs.  
Please forgive us. We have sinned against You in our lack of trust that You are always with us. Fill us again with Your Spirit that our confidence might always grow in YOU, and the world may see YOU in our lives. Amen.

Our heavenly Father HAS had mercy on us! He has sent His own Son to die for us. His Word is true, If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. I therefore declare: Your sin is forgiven! In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

---

## Prayers

Prayer points to ponder:

- Jesus, thank you that we belong to you, that you will never let us down or give up on us. We are so blessed to be favoured by you. Help us to share this good news with each other that it may encourage, uplift and bring hope and joy to those around us.
- We ask for your continued wisdom and guidance on our Call process, for our Call Committee and for the Pastor you are preparing to call to Our Saviour.
- We pray for your comfort, help and healing to those suffering with COVID or those who may be isolated from others because of COVID. Reassure them of your presence in their lives and your unending love.
- Be with those struggling with loneliness, depression, financial or health concerns. We pray especially for people in our own community. Remind them of your unending love and care for them and prompt each of us to reach out to those who need our support and friendship.

**The 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.

---

## Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.  
And 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, dead and buried. He descended into hell, the third day He rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven, and sits 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.

---

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favour, and give you peace. Amen.

---

## Song

[Satisfied](#) CCLI#71 17453