



ENTER God's presence

¹ Hear us, Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock.
You who sit enthroned between the cherubim,
shine forth ² before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.
Awaken your might;
come and save us.
³ Restore us, O God;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.

Psalm 80:1-3

Lord Jesus, son of God and son of man, by your death and resurrection you have saved us and redeemed us from death for a life of purpose. Open our hearts, expand our minds, and satisfy our souls. Transform us by the renewing of our minds. Amen.



SHARE life together

Luther's explanation for the 2nd Article of the creed (next part):

I believe that Jesus Christ is my Lord.
*Jesus rescued me when I was lost
And sentenced to death.
He set me free from all my sins,
From death,
And from the power of the devil.*

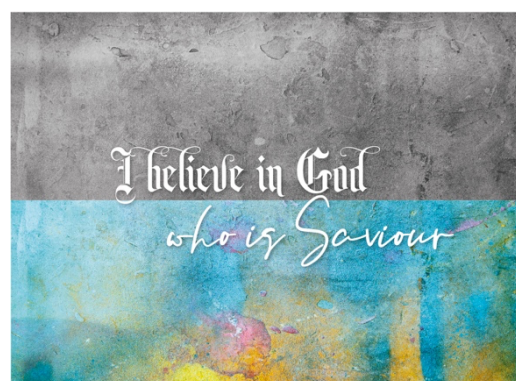
1. **Where have you seen God's power at work in your life this last week?**
2. **Share how you went with your living purposefully from last time?**
3. **To fully grasp the significance of Jesus as our Saviour, we need to recognise how we have been trapped as prisoners of an unforgiving world. In what ways have you felt trapped, stuck, or helpless.**
4. **How, specifically, has Jesus been doing a work of transformation on you?**

The last two years have been a challenging time for many Australians. The constantly changing restrictions to lockdowns, home learning and extended times of isolation have made life difficult. Yet lockdown hasn't been all bad. Retailers like Bunnings, paint stores and garden centres have done exceedingly well. The forced slowdown has made people stop and look at their own environment and see what work is needed to be done.

Week beginning:
Sunday 31st October 2021
REFORMATION DAY



Worship series:
ANCIENT CREED: LIVING FAITH
I believe in God who is Saviour
(#4 in series)



VERSE for the week

**Restore us, O God;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.**

Psalm 80:3,7,19



REMEMBER this week

**The cross of Jesus Christ
is the workshop
where restoration of lives
begins and ends.**

From maintenance to painting houses, from landscaping to restoration projects, long neglected or forgotten DIY projects have been started.

But when it comes to our hearts, no amount of DIY will fix lives destined for the scrap heap; lives which are disconnected from God, alienated from his presence, battered, broken and in disarray because of sin. We can't fix ourselves. We can't fix our circumstances. But God can. God does not look at the world with the eyes of a critic, but with the eyes of a restorer. It's this reality that we confess in the second article of the Apostles' Creed as we see God's restoration project at work. So today we explore and experience what it means to believe in God who is Saviour.



LISTEN attentively

Read Colossians 1:15-22

5. ***What key words/thoughts/ideas/questions arise for you as you hear this text?***
6. ***What do you hear this scripture saying to you right now?***
7. ***Verse 19 says that through Jesus' blood all things have been reconciled with God. List the ways you understand, from God's Word, that His Salvation has changed you over the years.***
8. ***We say, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is my Lord', but we all too often go to other 'saviours' to comfort us in our time of need. We used to think of addiction as the exclusive domain of heavy drinkers and addicts of illegal narcotics, but what addiction really is, is when we look for a saviour in all the wrong places. What are your addictions your false saviours; screen time, TV, video games, social media, are you an adrenaline junkie, is it illicit sexual desire or are you more traditional – alcohol, food, sweets, prescription drugs?***

Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a person could stake their life on it a thousand times.

Luther's preface to the book of Romans



GROW deeper

Read Romans 12:1,2

¹ Therefore, I urge you brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing, and perfect will.

[Note: 'mind' and 'soul' are interchangeable. They're both translations of the Greek *psyche* – meaning, 'higher self'.]

9. **Is there any indication in this text, that we need to morally better ourselves?**
10. **What does 'be transformed' indicate to you?**
11. **We know that God wants to plant/re-pot and grow his church, what might his good, pleasing, and perfect will' look like in action through his righteous people?**



LIVE purposefully

Read and discuss the text that triggered Luther's personal re-formation, Romans 1:17

¹⁷ For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed – a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: '***The righteous will live by faith.***'

Critical Exercise:

Pt. 1 - Write down what that might look like in the communities that LifeWay Newcastle, Westside, Epping and Illawarra are a part of.

Pt. 2 – What offer of service to the Gospel is God calling you into?

Put it in all in an email or a letter and share your ideas and your offer with your pastor.



PRAY intentionally

- Praise God for bringing us into the fullness of life and of being fully human in Jesus.
- Invite Jesus to restore you according to his original plans.
- Intercede for all those who put their own health and safety on the line, our teachers, healthcare workers, police officers, emergency service workers and defence force personnel.
- Pray for those who have lost loved ones in any circumstance. Ask that they would receive comfort and a deep knowledge of God's grace as he sits with them, sharing in their grief.
- Thank God for all the gifts he has given you to share and to minister to others with love.
- Ask God to reveal the people of peace in our community that he wants us to go out to.
- Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest. (*This has become known as the Luke 10:2 prayer*)

REMEMBER:

The cross of Jesus Christ is the workshop where restoration of lives begins and ends.



BLESS one another

You might like to address one person in your group and make the sign of the cross in the air as you say...

[Name], Jesus Christ has saved you and restored you. Amen.