



**Salem** | **Lutheran**

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[www.salemlutheran.org](http://www.salemlutheran.org)



## Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

*Theme: Hard Truth—The first will be last; the last will be first.*

**W**elcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:** Savior Jesus, you speak to us through your Word to teach about sin and forgiveness. Help us to turn from those things that are wrong and to pursue all those things that are good in your sight. Amen.

**THEME OF THE DAY:** When it comes to the difficult and uncomfortable topic of who goes to heaven and who goes to hell, most people want to avoid the issue. Someone asks Jesus in our Gospel lesson, *"Lord, are only a few going to be saved?"* Rather than talking about how many will be saved, Jesus answers the more important question. How to be among the saved. It is another hard truth. **The doorway into heaven is narrow.** Scripture consistently teaches that those who are certain they will be first are more likely to be last, if they make it through at all. Instead, the one who trusts in God's grace, believing he is the last one God should let into his kingdom, will enter first.

**OUR WORSHIP SERIES:** Jesus knew that when he went to Jerusalem he was going to die. With a sense of urgency, Jesus shares truths we need to hear, even if we don't want to hear them. As Jesus teaches hard truth, he reverses the normal order of things. The Teacher's life and work are the opposite of what one would expect. When the truth is hard to hear, the first temptation is to deny it. We cannot do that with Jesus' teaching, for he never lies. When the truth is hard to hear, the second temptation is to simply ignore it. To do that with Jesus is to court eternal death. Jesus' words contain an urgent warning: Listen! Take to heart what Jesus says! For through his Word, though it contains hard truths, God gives eternal life.

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# Order of Worship



## Preservice Music & Introduction

### Hymn: Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

CW 621



1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to his feet your  
2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to his peo - ple  
3 Fa - ther - like he tends and spares us; well our fee - ble  
4 An - gels, help us to a - dore him; you be - hold him



trib - ute bring. Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en,  
in dis - tress. Praise him, still the same as ev - er,  
frame he knows. In his hand he gent - ly bears us,  
face to face. Sun and moon, bow down be - fore him;



ev - er - more his prais - es sing; Al - le - lu - ia,  
slow to chide, and swift to bless, Al - le - lu - ia,  
res - cues us from all our foes; Al - le - lu - ia,  
all who dwell in time and space, Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! praise the ev - er - last - ing King!  
al - le - lu - ia! glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness!  
al - le - lu - ia! wide - ly yet his mer - cy flows!  
al - le - lu - ia! praise with us the God of grace!

*Please stand.*

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: **Amen.**

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: If we claim to be without sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: **If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

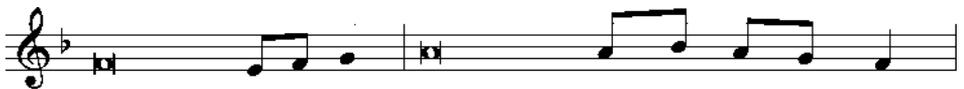
M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: **Holy God, gracious Father,  
I am sinful by nature  
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.  
I have not loved you with my whole heart;  
I have not loved others as I should.  
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.  
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins  
with his innocent suffering and death.  
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

### Glory Be to God *(Gloria in Excelsis)*



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al-mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;  
 have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.  
 You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.  
 For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the  
 Ho-ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## THE WORD OF GOD

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

### *Prayer of the Day*

**M:** Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

*Be seated.*

## First Reading

Isaiah 66:18–24

*The LORD teaches that not only will those who seemed far from his kingdom be among the first to enter eternal glory, but some of those who seemed to be part of his kingdom will be shut out.*

<sup>18</sup>“And I, because of what they have planned and done, am about to come and gather the people of all nations and languages, and they will come and see my glory.

<sup>19</sup>“I will set a sign among them, and I will send some of those who survive to the nations—to Tarshish, to the Libyans and Lydians (famous as archers), to Tubal and Greece, and to the distant islands that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory among the nations. <sup>20</sup>And they will bring all your people, from all the nations, to my holy mountain in Jerusalem as an offering to the LORD—on horses, in chariots and wagons, and on mules and camels,” says the LORD. “They will bring them, as the Israelites bring their grain offerings, to the temple of the LORD in ceremonially clean vessels. <sup>21</sup>And I will select some of them also to be priests and Levites,” says the LORD.

<sup>22</sup>“As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me,” declares the LORD, “so will your name and descendants endure. <sup>23</sup>From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all mankind will come and bow down before me,” says the LORD. <sup>24</sup>“And they will go out and look on the dead bodies of those who rebelled against me; the worms that eat them will not die, the fire that burns them will not be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind.”

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

Revelation 3:14–22

*In the Revelation letter to Laodicea Jesus warns against false riches and the danger of indifference*

<sup>14</sup>“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. <sup>15</sup>I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! <sup>16</sup>So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. <sup>17</sup>You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. <sup>18</sup>I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the

fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

<sup>19</sup>Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. <sup>20</sup>Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

<sup>21</sup>To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. <sup>22</sup>Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

M: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## **Gospel**

Luke 13:22-30

*Jesus teaches that the last will be first and the first will be last.*

<sup>22</sup>Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. <sup>23</sup>Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?"

He said to them, <sup>24</sup>"Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. <sup>25</sup>Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.'

"But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.'

<sup>26</sup>"Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.'

<sup>27</sup>"But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!'

<sup>28</sup>"There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. <sup>29</sup>People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. <sup>30</sup>Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last."

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated.*

## Children's Message

### Hymn of the Day: Seek Where You May to Find a Way CW 698



1 Seek where you may to find a way that leads to  
2 Seek whom you may to be your stay, none can re -  
3 Seek him a - lone who did a - tone, who did your  
4 My heart's de - light, my crown most bright, O Christ, you



your sal - va - tion. My heart is stilled, on Christ I build,  
deem an - oth - er. All help - ers failed; this man pre - vailed,  
souls de - liv - er. O seek him first, all you who thirst  
are for - ev - er. Not wealth or pride or for - tune's tide



he is the one foun - da - tion. His Word is  
the God - man, Christ our broth - er. This Ser - vant -  
for grace that fails you nev - er. In ev - 'ry  
our bond of love shall sev - er. You are my



sure, his works en - dure; he o - ver - throws all  
Lord our life re - stored; we're jus - ti - fied, for  
need seek him in - deed; to ev - 'ry heart he  
Lord; your pre - cious Word shall light my way each



e - vil foes; through him I more than con - quer.  
he has died, the guilt - less for the guilt - y.  
will im - part his bless - ings with - out mea - sure.  
daunt - ing day. O teach me, Lord, to trust you!

## Sermon

Based on Revelation 3:14-22

*"The danger of indifference"*

Please stand after the sermon.

# THANKSGIVING

## 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

### Offering



*Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.*

*We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.*



*Please stand.*

### Closing Prayer

**M:** 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.

**C:** 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.

## Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

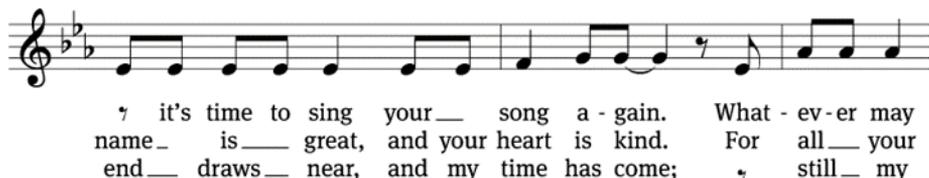
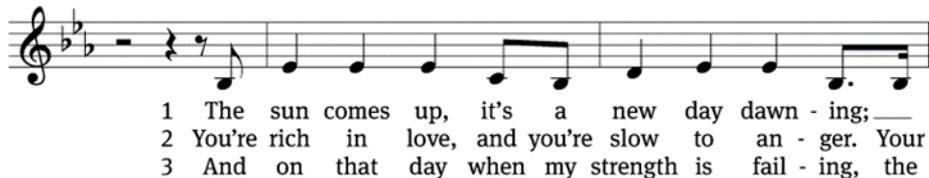
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and T give you peace.

C: Amen.

## Hymn: Ten Thousand Reasons

CW 607





pass, \_\_\_ and what - ev - er lies be - fore me,  
good - ness, I will keep \_\_\_ on \_\_\_ sing - ing—  
soul will sing your praise \_\_\_ un - end - ing—



let me be sing - ing when the eve - ning comes.  
ten thou - sand rea - sons for my heart to find.  
ten thou - sand years and then for - ev - er - more.

## **Silent Prayer and Announcements**

### **Acknowledgments**

Setting One from Christian Worship

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### **Serving God, Serving Us**

Worship Leader: Pastor Jake Schram      Preacher: Pastor Jon Enter  
Piano/Organ: Madison Boerner

### **Fellowship & Spiritual Growth**

After worship, all are invited to enjoy fellowship in the entry. Beginning September 11th Sunday JAM Children's ministry for ages 3yrs to 6th grade will begin at 9:15am in the sanctuary. Adult Bible study will begin about the same time in the fellowship hall downstairs.

### **Special Kick-off Worship Next Week—Saturday**

Worship theme: Our Plans, His Promise (Salem's 2022-2023 Theme)  
Bible Readings: Isaiah 55:1-2, 6-12; Luke 10:21-24; Proverbs 16:9  
Hymns: *Jesus, Strong & Kind*; *By Faith*; *My Lighthouse* (School anthems)

### **For Worship Next Week—Sunday**

Worship theme: The humble will be exalted; the exalted will be humbled  
Bible Readings: Proverbs 25:6-7a; James 2:1-13; Luke 15:1,7-14  
Hymns: St. Croix Croixaliers anthems, 608, 729, 662

# Welcome to worship!

## FOR OUR GUESTS

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help. Please take note of a few helpful things:

- † **Restrooms** are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance. Both men's and women's restrooms are equipped with **diaper changing tables** for your convenience.
- † Our sanctuary is equipped with an amplified "loop" system for **hearing assistance**. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position.
- † You will find a **connection card** in your bulletin. We ask members and guests to share their names and contact info, and invite you to share requests for contact or prayers.
- † Salem members give an **offering** to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to make a donation you can place it in a basket at the entrance to the sanctuary or as it's passed during the service.

## FOR THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing and pray and grow with us in our services. Please note these special worship aids and helps for families:

- † Children's bulletins & "*quiet bags*" for your child's use in worship are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- † If your child needs to be nursed or quieted for a few moments you can use our "*cry room*" down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is shown live on a TV in the room.
- † Sunday mornings, before the hymn of the day and sermon, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for a short devotion on God's Word. Parents may accompany their children as they wish.

Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God  
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may  
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.

