





Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: Hard Truth—Put down what you love; pick up what you loathe.

Welcome! 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: Loving Savior, thank you for delivering me through another week and bringing me once again to your house for worship. Bless me through your Word and fill my heart with songs of praise. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: It is an unavoidable hard truth. Our relationship with Jesus will put us in situations where we must decide where love for him ranks compared to love for other people and things. And Jesus is not content to be one of many important things in our life; he wants to be first. **Following Jesus will force us to let go of things we love and embrace things we would naturally loathe.** Jesus tells us up front that we must count the cost of following him. That means calculating what we might have to give up as his followers. But those calculations also include what we get through him! When we perceive the infinite blessings we find in Christ, the decisions we must make, while difficult, will be clear. Whatever we lose as we follow Jesus pales in comparison to what we gain.

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. 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.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Preacher: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Worship Leader: Pastor Jake Schram

Organ: Robyn Stoller

14940 62nd St N, Stillwater + www.salemlutheran.org + 651-439-7831

rwolfe@salemlutheran.org + jschram@salemlutheran.org

Order of Worship



HYMN: Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways

CW 705



- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
- 2 Or - der my foot - steps by your Word, and make my heart sin - cere;
- 3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep,
- 4 Make me to walk in your com-mands—'tis a de - light - ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do - min-ion, Lord, but keep my con-science clear.
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan-d'ring sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Please stand.

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ 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. *(1 John 1:8-9)*

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 \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Praise Response: How Great Thou Art

CW 612 sts. 1, Ref, 2



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der



con - sid - er all the works thy hand hath made,
and hear the birds sing sweet - ly in the trees;



I see the stars, I hear the might - y thun - der,
when I look down from loft - y moun - tain gran - deur



thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior - God, to thee, How great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my



Sav - ior - God to thee, How great thou art! How great thou art!

THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

O merciful Lord, you did not spare your only Son but delivered him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated.

First Reading

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Through Moses, the Lord sets two paths before Israel: one leading to life and the other to death. Life was found in listening to God's voice.

¹⁵See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. ¹⁶For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, ¹⁸I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

¹⁹This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live ²⁰and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm of the Day: Blessed Are They

Psalm 1A

We sing the refrains and speak the verses together.

Refrain



Blessed is the one who does not walk
in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,
but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,
and who meditates on his law day and night.
That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers. *Refrain*

Not so the wicked!
They are like chaff that the wind blows away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. *Refrain*

For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen. *Refrain***

Second Reading

Philemon 1, 7-21

The case of the escaped slave Onesimus, returning to his owner Philemon, is a perfect example of the cost of following Jesus. Paul encourages Philemon to free Onesimus and embrace him as a brother.

¹Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker—

⁷Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

⁸Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, ⁹yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—¹⁰that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. ¹¹Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

¹²I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. ¹³I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. ¹⁴But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary. ¹⁵Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever—¹⁶no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.

¹⁷So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. ²⁰I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel

Luke 14:25–35

The case of the escaped slave Onesimus, returning to his owner Philemon, is a perfect example of the cost of following Jesus. Paul encourages Philemon to free Onesimus and embrace him as a brother.

²⁵Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: ²⁶“If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. ²⁷And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

²⁸“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? ²⁹For if you lay

the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you,
³⁰saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'

³¹"Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. ³³In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

³⁴"Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? ³⁵It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.

"Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Children's Devotion

Hymn of the Day: Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

CW 694



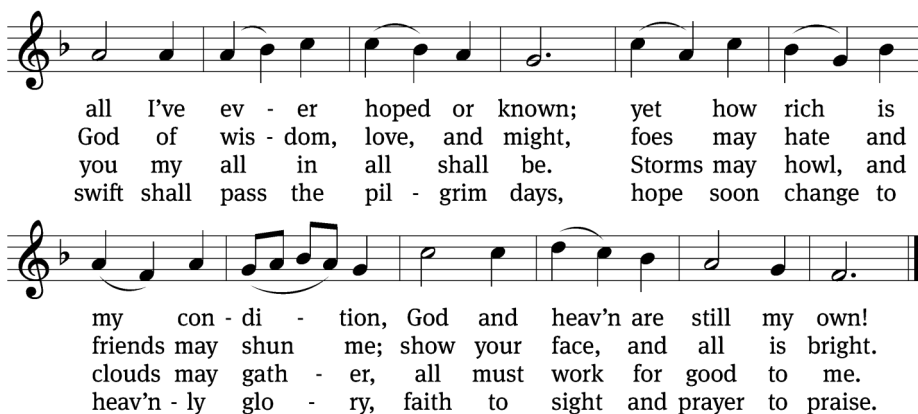
1 Je - sus, I my cross have tak - en, all to leave and
 2 Let the world de - spise and leave me; they have left my
 3 Go, then, earth - ly fame and trea - sure! Come, dis - as - ter,
 4 Haste, my soul, from grace to glo - ry, armed by faith and



fol - low you; des - ti - tute, de-spised, for - sak - en, you on
 Sav - ior, too. Hu - man hearts and looks de - ceive me; you are
 scorn, and pain! In your ser - vice pain is plea - sure, with your
 winged by prayer; all but heav'n is tran - si - to - ry, God's own



earth once suf - fered, too. Per - ish ev - 'ry fond am - bi - tion,
 not, like them, un - true. And, since you have smiled up - on me,
 fa - vor loss is gain. I have called you Ab - ba, Fa - ther;
 hand shall guide you there. Soon shall end this earth - ly sto - ry,



Sermon

Based on Philemon

"God makes the Useless Useful"

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

M: Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

C: Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

M: Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

C: Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

M: Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

C: Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

M: Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

C: Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

M: Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

C: Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

M: Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, *[especially...]* Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

C: Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

M: We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

C: Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

M: Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

C: Amen.

Offering



Connect Card

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.



Give Online

Hymn: Jesus Calls Us ‘er the Tumult

CW 711

1 Je - sus calls us o’er the tu - mult of our
2 As the first dis - ci - ples heard it by the
3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
5 Je - sus calls us! In your mer - cy, Sav - ior,

life’s wild, rest - less sea; day by day his voice in -
Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and toil and
vain world’s gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
help us hear your call; give our hearts to your o -

vites us, say - ing, “Chris - tian, fol - low me!”
kin - dred, leav - ing all for his dear sake.
keep us, say - ing, “Chris - tian, love me more.”
plea - sures, “Chris - tian, love me more than these.”
be - dience, serve and love you best of all!

M: 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.

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 + give you peace.

C: Amen.

Hymn: Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

CW 704



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex -
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, to his im - age
3 Let us al - so die with Je - sus; his death from the
4 Let us glad - ly live with Je - sus; since he's ris - en



am - ple pure, flee the world which would de - ceive us and to
e'er con - form; heav - en's glo - ry soon will please us, sun - shine
sec - ond death, from our soul's de - struc - tion, frees us, quick - ens
from the dead, death and grave must soon re - lease us. Je - sus,



sin our souls al - lure. Ev - er in his foot - steps tread - ing,
fol - low on the storm. Though we sow in tears of sor - row,
us with life's glad breath. Let us mor - ti - fy, while liv - ing,
thou art now our head. We are tru - ly thine own mem - bers,



bod - y here, yet soul a - bove, full of faith and
we shall reap in heav'n - ly joy, and the fears that
flesh and blood and die to sin, and the grave that
where thou liv - est, there live we; take and own us

hope and love, let us do the Fa-ther's bid-ding. Faith-ful
now an-noy shall be laugh-ter on the mor-row. Christ, I
shuts us in shall but prove the gate to heav-en. Je-sus,
con-stant-ly, faith-ful Friend, as thy dear breth-ren. Je-sus,
Lord, a-bide with me; Sav-ior, lead; I fol-low thee.
suf-fer here with thee; there, O share thy joy with me.
here I die to thee, there to live e-ter-nal-ly.
here I live to thee, al-so there e-ter-nal-ly.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Reprinted under OneLicense # 48708 and CCLI # 630266

Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

After worship all are invited to enjoy fellowship in the entry. Beginning next week, children ages 3yrs to 6th grade are invited to attend Sunday JAM (Jesus and Me) beginning at 9:15am in the sanctuary. Adult Bible study begins at the same time in the fellowship hall.

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Hard Truth—The Found in Christ share him with the Lost, in every generation (Teacher Installation & Christian Education Sunday)

Bible Readings: Deuteronomy 6:1-9; 2 Peter 3:17b-18; Luke 15:1-10

Hymns: 939, 916, 654, 670, 758

Schedule Change Next Week!

Next week brings the return of our regular worship schedule.

Sunday morning services will be at 8am and 10:30am, with Bible study and children's ministry between services 9:15-10:15. 5pm Saturday services

will resume the next week on September 17th. Be sure to check the church calendar on our website for the most up-to-date information!





The return of the fall schedule brings a return to our regular Bible study offerings. We hope you'll join us for one or more of the following spiritual growth opportunities.

Let us always hear God's call to "*grow in grace & knowledge.*" (2 Peter 3:17)

For All—Sunday mornings (9:15am)

The Gospel of Matthew begins with a genealogy of Jesus, a kind of list of ancestors any of us might be able to produce and share. But Jesus' human ancestry is only a part of his story. Jesus didn't just come into our world—he was sent. Our Sunday morning Bible study looks at Matthew's Gospel through the lens of Jesus as the promised Messiah. The fulfillment of God's promises to Abraham and Isaiah and Adam himself. Join us in the fellowship hall each week as we watch a portion of the Gospel on video then discuss what we saw and heard. The study will be a blessing both to long-time Bible study attenders and those new to study or new to the Christian faith itself.

For All—Tuesday mornings (10:10am)

On Tuesday mornings members dig into Paul's letter to the Romans. This letter, more than any other, lays out logically who we are as sinners and what God in grace has done to save us from that sin. The group is nearly done with the book of Romans and will begin a new topic soon, so it's the perfect time to join. This study currently meets in the church sanctuary. There is an online option to participate as well.

For Women—Every other Wednesday (9:30am beginning 9/7/22)

Every other Wednesday, women are invited to the fireside room (by the church offices) to enjoy fellowship around 9:15am and bible study with Pastor Wolfe from 9:30-10:30am. Children are welcome and encouraged to join us at this Bible Study! No distraction is too big. This group is continuing our study of the Gospels using the book *Jesus: A Study on the Words of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John*. If you don't already have a copy, we will have books at the Study ready for you! If you have questions contact Rachel Boerner at 507-720-2954.

For Everyone, Everywhere—Growth Groups

Growth groups take our study of the Bible outside the walls of the church and bring it right where it's most needed—in our homes! Small groups of members meet on a variety of schedules in a variety of places studying a variety of things. In other words, there's a group for you somewhere even if it hasn't started yet. To learn more about growth groups talk to one of the pastors or send an email to growthgroups@salemlutheran.org.

The second WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership will be held January 16-18, 2023, at the Hilton Chicago. This conference is not only for those who serve in formal leadership positions in their congregation: called workers, church council members, school board members, and the like. This conference is for anyone who is passionate about the mission of the church. It is for everyone who, by encouragement and example, wants to lead others to engage in that mission. So, all are welcome—called workers and laity, men and women, retirees and high school students, lifelong WELS members, and those new to the church.

We hope to see a number of Salem members attend the conference. Learn more at www.lutheranleadership.com. If you would like to attend, please talk to Pastor Wolfe or church president Clay Raasch (651-231-3237 or raasches@gmail.com).



+++++



There are less than ten spots left for our church’s men’s retreat at Camp Croix in Danbury, WI. This year’s Men’s Retreat features Pastor Don Patterson from Austin, TX sharing insights on peace from the book of *Psalms*. The retreat is September 16-18th. See the full schedule and register at www.mensretreat.org.

A separate one-day men’s retreat will be held October 22nd in Rochester at the Mayo Civic Center. This “Men of His Word” conference features Pastor Joel Heckendorf from Reno, NV as keynote speaker and the band Koine will lead worship. Attendees choose breakout sessions on topics like marriage, service, science, and parenting. The cost of this retreat is \$50 for adults and \$30 for students, plus hotel if needed. Learn more and register at www.menofhisword.org.

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 pew. 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.**

