



Trust in God's Strength



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

651-439-7831

www.salemlutheran.org

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: Gracious Holy Spirit, you come to us through your Word to create pure hearts within us and to renew our strength to serve. Bless our praise today and help us live lives of holiness. Amen.

OUR WORSHIP SERIES: The Greek word epiphany means "appearance." In the first half of this church season called Epiphany, we saw Jesus appear on the scene, beginning his ministry. It's not long before large crowds start following. In the second half of this season we look at Jesus' most famous sermon to learn what it means to be one of his followers. The Sermon on the Mount was not delivered from a pulpit but on a hill. Jesus' voice called out over the crowd and his followers hung on every word. This season we too hear the Savior's sermon as he teaches us about living an authentic Christian life.

THEME OF THE DAY: Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount with a series of blessings, known as the "Beatitudes" from the Latin translation. It had to give the assembled crowd reason to pause. For what Jesus calls blessed, the world never would. The world praises the strong and the self-sufficient. Jesus calls blessed those that others would see as weak or stupid. But, like any good preacher, Jesus is trying to drive home one crucial point. The weaker you are, the more ready you are to rely on God's strength. The more difficult your present circumstances, the more likely you are to properly focus on our future reward. We don't need strength and wisdom of our own. God's is enough to give the kingdom of heaven to the humble and poor in spirit.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Piano: Paige Reiners

Jubilate Children's Choir Director: Luke Dorn

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Order of Worship



HYMN: Jesus Paid It All

CW 562 sts. 1-3

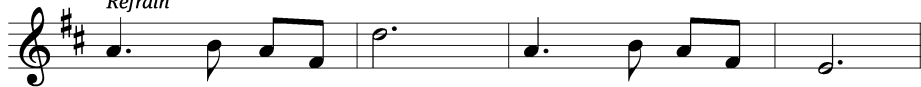


1 I hear the Sav - ior say, "Thy strength in - deed is small!
2 Lord, now in - deed I find thy pow'r, and thine a - lone
3 For noth - ing good have I where - by thy grace to claim;



Child of weak - ness, watch and pray, find in me thine all in all."
can _ change the lep - er's spots and _ melt the heart of stone.
I'll _ wash my gar - ments white in the blood of Cal - v'ry's Lamb.

Refrain



Je - sus paid it all, all to him I owe;



sin had left a crim - son stain, he washed it white as snow.

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 confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

I now ask you in the presence of God, who searches the heart: Do you sincerely confess that you have sinned against God and deserve his wrath and punishment?

C: I do confess my many sins and admit that I deserve God's punishment.

M: Do you willingly repent of all your sins committed in thought, word, and deed? And do you promise by the power of the Holy Spirit to amend your sinful life?

C: I do repent of my sins and promise to amend my sinful ways.

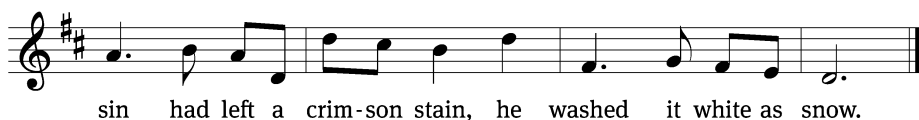
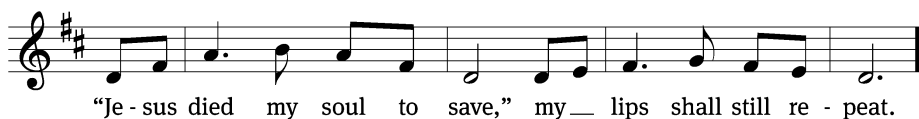
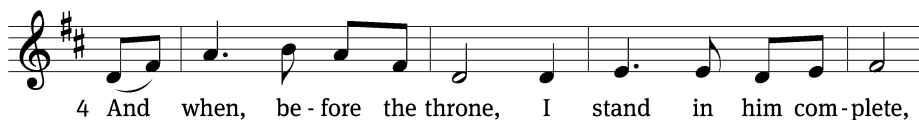
M: Do you sincerely believe that God, by grace, for Jesus' sake, forgives you all your sins?

C: **I do believe, for God has promised that whoever believes in Jesus will not perish but have eternal life.**

M: Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, and as a called servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins. Be assured that you are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life.

Hymn: *Jesus Paid It All*

CW 562 sts. Ref, 4



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, look with mercy on our weaknesses, and in all our dangers and needs stretch out the right hand of your majesty to help and defend us; 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

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:11-13

The LORD promises that those who are humble, who trust in his strength rather than their own, will not be put to shame.

³Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land,
you who do what he commands.
Seek righteousness, seek humility;
perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD's anger.

¹¹On that day you, Jerusalem, will not be put to shame
for all the wrongs you have done to me,
because I will remove from you your arrogant boasters.
Never again will you be haughty on my holy hill.

¹²But I will leave within you the meek and humble.
The remnant of Israel will trust in the name of the LORD.

¹³They will do no wrong; they will tell no lies.
A deceitful tongue will not be found in their mouths.
They will eat and lie down and no one will make them afraid."

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(10:30am) Choir Anthem

Come, Christians, Join to Sing
Jubilate Children's Choir

Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King: Alleluia! Amen!
Let all with heart and voice, before His throne rejoice:
praise is His gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!

Oh, come and sing: Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises ring: Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore, singing forevermore
God's goodness we'll adore Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high; Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend; to us He'll condescend
His love shall never end! Alleluia! Amen!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen! Amen!

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Paul points the Corinthians to themselves as an example of how God's strength is made perfect in weakness.

²⁶Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

²⁸God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹so that no one may boast before him. ³⁰It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

³¹Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

Jesus begins his Sermon on the Mount by revealing the outcome of a life that is lived trusting in God's strength and not our own.

¹Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ²and he began to teach them.

He said:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

⁸Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Children's Devotion

Hymn of the Day: Blest Are They

CW 690



1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it, theirs is the
2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones, they shall in -
3 Blest are they who show mer - cy, mer - cy
4 Blest are they who seek peace, they are the
5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate all be -



king - dom of God. Blest are they,
her - it the earth. Blest are they who
shall be theirs. Blest are they, the
chil - dren of God. Blest are they who
cause of me. Re - joice and be glad,



full of sor - row, they shall be con - soled.
hun - ger and thirst, they shall have their fill.
pure of heart, they shall see God!
suf - fer in faith, the glo - ry of God is theirs.
yours is the king - dom; shine for all to see.



Re - joice and be glad! Bless - ed are



you, ho - ly are you! Re - joice and be glad!



Yours is the king - dom of God!

Sermon

Based on Matthew 5:1-12

"#Blessed?"

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.

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.

Prayer of the Church

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.

Hymn: He Will Hold Me Fast

CW 813



1 When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
2 Those he saves are his de - light; Christ will hold me fast;
3 For my life he bled and died; Christ will hold me fast;



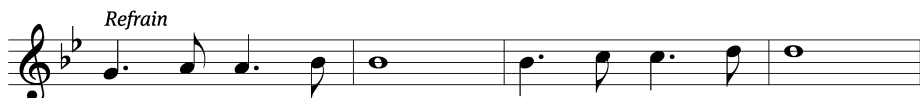
when the tempt - er would pre - vail, he will hold me fast.
pre - cious in his ho - ly sight, he will hold me fast.
jus - tice has been sat - is - fied; he will hold me fast.



I could nev - er keep my hold thro' life's fear - ful path,
He'll not let my soul be lost; his prom - is - es shall last;
Raised with him to end - less life, he will hold me fast



for my love is of - ten cold— he must hold me fast.
bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast.
till our faith is turned to sight when he comes at last! (Refrain 2X)



He will hold me fast; he will hold me fast;



for my Sav - ior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

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.

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: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CW 923 sts. 1, 3

1 Guide me, O thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious
bar - ren land. I am weak, but thou art might - y;
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion,
hold me with thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,
land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es,
bread songs of heav - en, feed me till I want no
songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to
more, thee, feed me till I want no more.
I will ev - er give to thee.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy refreshments and fellowship in the entry between services. Sunday JAM for children ages 3yrs to 6th grade starts at 9:10am in the sanctuary. Adult & Teen Bible study begins at 9:15 in the fellowship hall downstairs.

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: The Savior's Sermon: "You are...so be!"

Bible Readings: Exodus 19:1-8, 1 Peter 2:9-12, Matthew 5:13-20

Hymns: 630, 854, 736



The Minnesota District Workshop will be on **Saturday, February 25, 2023** at West Lutheran High School. This event is open to all WELS members who are looking for personal inspiration or new ministry ideas. The event goes from 9am to 3:30pm.

Keynote presenter Pastor Donn Dobberstein will speak on how to **"Make Church Membership Meaningful Again."** Covid gave people many excuses to become less connected with their church family. While we might be tempted to lower the bar on what it means to be a church member, Pastor Dobberstein will share why the opposite is needed in times like this.

Participants will then choose a breakout workshops to attend:

- **Do No Harm, by Pastor Edward Frey.** Our culture is currently engaged in a discussion regarding emerging treatment for gender dysphoria. The question for Christians is this: how do we help without causing harm?
- **Legal Issues You Need to Know to Protect Your School's Ministry, by Sam Nelson.** Sam will be presenting on pressing legal issues in today's world that Christian schools need to be aware of and proactively address.
- **Understanding and Standing with Gen Z, by Cameron Schroeder.** Cameron, a Gen Z-er himself and a student at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, will offer new ways to find the key to our teens' hearts.
- **Friendship Sunday, Every Sunday, By Pastor Dan Schmidt.** Dan will share his journey of transforming an established church to be a place where everyone feels like they belong every Sunday.
- **New Technologies for the Visually Impaired, by Larry Povinelli.** The latest advances in technology can assist you in helping your members stay connected and provide an opportunity to reach your local community.
- **Do We Really Need Small Groups, by Pastor Matt Ewart.** In this workshop, participants will talk about the various roles that small groups can play in churches of any size.

The cost for this event is \$30 if you register by February 1.
Go to www.mnworkshop.com for more details and to register.

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 as it's passed during the service or give online.

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.**

