

14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

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www.salemlutheran.org



Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

*Define Christian—
The Christian is planted by the Word*

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.

THEME OF THE DAY: Planting seed by hand can seem miraculous. You put a seemingly lifeless seed into the soil, and the seed sprouts and grows into life and reaches to the sun. Except when it doesn't! Plant multiple seeds and often only some, perhaps just a few, will sprout. Even as these grow, birds and pests and weeds and weather attack. Today, God uses that experience from nature to describe how God calls people to faith through the gospel. The Christian is planted by the Word. The Christian can plant the seed of the gospel into the soil of another's heart. What happens after that is completely beyond our control. Yet God promises us that his Word always accomplishes his good purposes. God's Word is powerful, all on its own, without our help.

WORSHIP SERIES: "What is a Christian?" Human answers may vary, but in this series we see Christ himself define who Christians are and what they do. We are reminded that people could sometimes look at our behavior and assume we were unbelievers. Throughout this series though, Jesus shows us that ultimately a Christian is not a "good person" who never sins, but rather a sinner who runs to the perfect Christ for forgiveness. But in a mystery of grace, as we receive the mercy of Christ, it moves us to work toward a life that better fits Christ's beautiful definition. God blesses us with faith in Christ for heaven, and faithfulness to Christ on earth.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Guest Worship Leader: Mr. Dave Malchow
Piano: Madison Boerner

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Order of Worship



Handbell Preservice Music

*Festive Variations
Let All Things Now Living*

HYMN: Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

CW 644



- 1 Al - might - y God, your Word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
- 2 Let not the foe of Christ and man this ho - ly seed re - move,
- 3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
- 4 When - e'er the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow



now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and right - eous fruits a - bound.
but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.
but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.
that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

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: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

Glory Be to God *(Gloria in Excelsis)*



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might - y God and Fa-ther. We



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on



us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on

earth. For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the
 Lord, you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ,
 with the Ho-ly Spir-it in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther.
 Glo-ry to God in the high-est and peace to his peo-ple on earth.
 Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God.

THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, since you have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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 55:6-11

God's Word always works—a seed that produces the fruit that God earnestly desires.

¹⁵Moses turned and went down the mountain with the two tablets of the ⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.

⁷Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the unrighteous their thoughts.
Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

⁸“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,”
declares the LORD.

⁹“As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

¹¹so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 3:5-11

We sow the seed of God's Word, but only God can make that seed grow.

⁵What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. ⁹For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

¹⁰By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. ¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Jesus pictures ministry as a sower scattering seed to all with no regard for where it might land.

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ²Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹Whoever has ears, let them hear."

¹⁸"Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²²The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Children's Devotion

Hymn of the Day: Preach You the Word

CW 895 sts. 1, 3-4, 6



1 Preach you the Word and plant it home to those who
3 The sow - er sows; his reck - less love scat - ters a -
4 Though some be snatched and some be scorched and some be
6 Preach you the Word and plant it home and nev - er



like or like it not, the Word that shall en -
broad the good - ly seed, in - tent a - lone that
choked and mat - ted flat, the sow - er sows; his
faint; the Har - vest Lord who gave the sow - er



ture and stand when flow'rs and mor - tals are for - got.
there may be the whole - some loaves that peo - ple need.
heart cries out, "Oh, what of that, and what of that?"
seed to sow will watch and tend his plant - ed Word.

Sermon

Based on Isaiah 55:6-9

"Kingdom work is dirty work"

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.



Handbell Offertory

In Christ There Is No East or West

Please stand.

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

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: On What Has Now Been Sown


CW 925 sts. 1,3



1 On what has now been sown your bless - ing, Lord, be -
3 O grant that each of us now met be - fore you



stow; the pow'r is yours a - lone to make it
here may meet to - geth - er thus when you and



spring and grow. O Lord, in grace the har - vest
yours ap - pear and fol - low you to heav'n, our



raise and you a - lone shall have the praise!
home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

Silent Prayer and Announcements

WELS Connection Video

Acknowledgments

Setting Four from Christian Worship

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For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Define Christian—The Christian lives as wheat among weeds

Bible Readings: Isaiah 44:6-11; Romans 1:18-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Hymns: 873, 605, 491

Join us for the rest of this worship series!

July 23rd – The Christian Lives as Wheat among Weeds

July 30th – The Christian Seeks Spiritual Wealth

August 6th – The Christian Trusts God to Provide

August 13th – The Christian Answers Doubt with Faith

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.

