

14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

651-439-7831

www.salemlutheran.org



Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

*Define Christian—
The Christian answers doubt with faith*

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: Savior Jesus, my place in the family of Christian faith is my greatest blessing. Move me to a greater love for you and quiet every doubt and concern. Hear my praise today and fill my heart with joy. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: Wherever faith clings to the promises of God, doubt is always near. It is common for doubt to rear its ugly head in times of adversity. Doubts about God's care, God's promises, God's providence. In those times, the answer to doubt is not found in the removal of adversity, but in the voice of our Savior God whispering to us in his Word. Through that Word Christ reaches out to us with nail-scarred hands, proof of his great love. The Christian answers doubt with faith because Jesus makes it so.

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 sinless person of good, 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 faith in Christ for heaven, and faithfulness to Christ on earth.

A WORD ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION: Our church observes the biblical practice of member communion (also called close communion). In Holy Communion we not only receive forgiveness from God, but we also express the unique relationship our members have with each other. If you are not a member of our congregation, we kindly ask that you not take communion today, but speak with our pastor after the service. We would love to share the sacrament with you in the future.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Organ: Robyn Stoller

Vocalists: Carolyn Forster, Lydia Mattson, Abigail Ibsch

Order of Worship



HYMN: Eternal Father, Strong to Save

CW 805, sts 1-3



1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm hath bound the
2 O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain o'er which our traf - fic
3 O Spir - it, whom the Fa - ther sent to spread a - broad the



rest - less wave, who bidd'st the might - y o - cean deep its
runs a - main, by moun - tain pass or val - ley low, wher -
fir - ma - ment, O Wind of heav - en, by thy might save



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: O hear us when we
ev - er, Lord, thy peo - ple go, pro - tect them by thy
all who dare the ea - gle's flight, and keep them by thy



cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
guard - ing hand from ev - 'ry per - il on the land.
watch - ful care from ev - 'ry per - il in the air.

Please stand.

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the \dagger 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.

HYMN: Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

CW 621 sts. 1-3



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



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,



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,



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!

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 most merciful God, preserve us from all harm and danger that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish what you want done; 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

1 Kings 19:9-18

The Lord answers Elijah's doubt not with a great show of power but with the gentle whisper of His gracious promise.

⁹There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the LORD came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁰He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

¹¹The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by."

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹²After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁴He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

¹⁵The LORD said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. ¹⁶Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. ¹⁷Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. ¹⁸Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him."

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Romans 8:31-39

Paul teaches that in all things, good times and bad, we can trust that God is carrying out his perfect plan for his glory and our salvation.

³¹What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel

Matthew 14:22-33

In the account of Peter walking on water, we see how quickly doubt challenges faith. We also see how graciously Jesus rescues us from it.

²²Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

²⁵Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.

²⁷But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

²⁸“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

²⁹“Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and,

beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

³²And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Children's Devotion

Hymn of the Day: Be Still, My Soul

CW 847 sts. 1-2, 4



1 Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side; bear pa-tient
2 Be still, my soul; your God will un - der - take to guide the
4 Be still, my soul; the hour is has - t'ning on when we shall



ly the cross of grief or pain; leave to your God to or - der
fu - ture as he has the past; your hope, your con - fi - dence, let
be for - ev - er with the Lord, when dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and



and pro - vide; in ev - 'ry change he faith-ful will re -
noth - ing shake; all now mys - te - rious shall be bright at
fear are gone, sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re -



main. Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'n - ly friend
last. Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
stored. Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,



through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
his voice who ruled them while he lived be - low.
all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

“The greatest Christian quality: Jesus saves us!”

Please stand after the sermon.

THANKSGIVING

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Be seated.

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

2023 Graduate Pictures

Our Salem family celebrates together when God does great things. Today we recognize members who graduated from high school in 2023. We'll pray for them after the offering and recognize any in attendance after the service.

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.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. The meal also bears witness to the unity and fellowship we share with each other. Therefore, we invite to communion all those who share in our confession by virtue of their membership here or in a sister WELS or ELS congregation. We ask visitors to speak to the pastor before communing.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might.

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -

na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -

na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

A - men. A - men.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff. It consists of nine measures of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The first measure is a whole note G4. The second measure is a half note A4. The third measure is a quarter note B4. The fourth measure is a quarter note C5. The fifth measure is a quarter note B4. The sixth measure is a quarter note A4. The seventh measure is a quarter note G4. The eighth measure is a quarter note F4. The ninth measure is a quarter note E4. The lyrics are: 'O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.' The first two lines of the score are identical. The third line has a different melody for the final two measures: 'grant us your peace.' The final line is 'A - men. A - men.'

Be seated.

Communion Distribution

For those who cannot have any alcohol for personal or medical reasons we offer white grape juice. You will find cups of white grape juice in the center of each communion tray. Gluten-free wafers are available by request for those medically unable to tolerate gluten.

Communicants may choose to receive the wine by individual or common cup. If you choose the common cup, please allow the individual tray to pass and then assist the minister by helping to tip the common cup.

Distribution Hymn: Immovable Our Hope Remains

CW 832



1 Im - mov - a - ble our hope re - mains, though shift - ing sands be -
2 This is e - ter - nal life: to know the liv - ing God and
3 The Lord ac - quits, who can con - demn? Though Sa - tan's ac - cu -
4 Built in - to Christ, se - cure we stand, for with his Spir - it



fore us lie; the One who washed a - way our stains shall
Christ, the Son. The Sav - ior will not let us go un -
sa - tions fly, his pow'r can nev - er reach our names, to
we've been sealed; by grace we'll see the prom - ised land where



bear us safe - ly to the skies. The floods may rise, the
til his sav - ing work is done. Our debt was great, as
blot them from the Book of Life. The Son has sure - ly
ev - 'ry sor - row shall be healed. To God who gave his



winds may beat, tor - ren - tial rains de - scend, yet
was our need, but now the price is paid. Who
made us free, his Word for - ev - er stands, and
on - ly Son, to Je - sus Christ, our Lord to



God his own will not for - get; he'll love and keep us
can be - hold Im - man - uel bleed and doubt his will - ing -
all our joy is know - ing we are grav - en on his
God the Spir - it, Three in One, be songs of praise for -



till the end. You'll love and keep us till the end.
ness to save? We trust your will - ing - ness to save.
wound - ed hands. We're grav - en on your wound - ed hands.
ev - er - more. We'll sing your praise for - ev - er - more.

After the distribution please stand at the pastor's direction.

Response of Thanksgiving

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **His mercy endures forever.**

Psalm 118:1

M: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: **We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

1 Corinthians 11:26

Closing Prayer & Blessing

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of 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.**

Be seated.

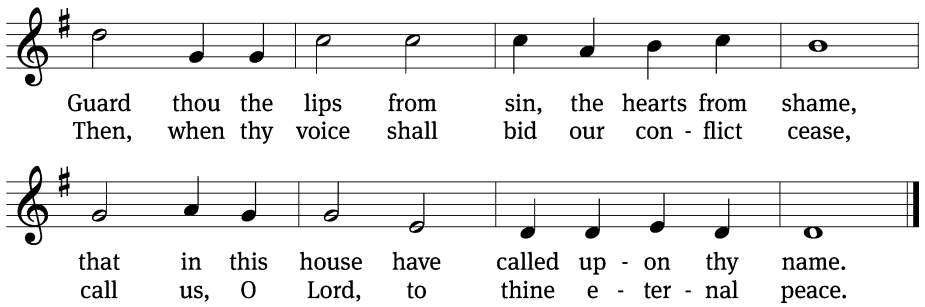
Hymn: Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise CW 931 sts. 2, 4



2 Grant us thy peace up - on our home-ward way;
4 Grant us thy peace through - out our earth - ly life,



with thee be - gan, with thee shall end the day.
our balm in sor - row and our stay in strife.



Guard thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
Then, when thy voice shall bid our con - flict cease,
that in this house have called up - on thy name.
call us, O Lord, to thine e - ter - nal peace.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Next weekend's worship schedule is special!

5pm next Saturday (August 19th) - Salem Church & School Kickoff

- Service theme: Rooted in Love
- Half hour service followed by picnic, games, and fellowship.
- This service will be different from Sunday's. You're welcome to attend both!

Worship Next Sunday

Worship theme: The Church God Wants: A Church for all people

Bible Readings: Isaiah 56:1,6-8; Ephesians 2:13-22; Matthew 19:16-20

Hymns: 628, 914, 855, 768



Next Sunday begins a new worship series: The Church GOD wants

August 20th – A Church for all people

August 27th – A Church that really knows Jesus

September 3rd – A Church that takes up its crosses

September 10th – A Church willing to say hard things

September 17th – A Church that's quick to forgive

See the 60 second intro video online! www.salemlutheran.org/intro

PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

(Also printed in the hymnal)

Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

A: *He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.*

Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

A: *I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?*

Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

A: *I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.*

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

A: *His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.*

Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

A: *In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.*

Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

A: *I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."*

Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

A: *I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.*

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.

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.

