

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 16-17, 2023



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

651-439-7831

www.salemlutheran.org



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*The Church God Wants—
A Church that is quick to forgive*

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 Father, you come to us with the promise of forgiveness and life. We come to you today with thanksgiving and peace. Bless us as we praise your name. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: "Pay it forward." That phrase means that when someone does something for you, you pass along kindness to another person instead. Doing something kind for someone else is a way of thanking the person who originally did something kind for you. Today God applies that concept to forgiveness.

God forgave our countless sins at great cost to himself on the cross. While God never wrongs us or needs our forgiveness, others do. When we are quick to forgive, it is one way we thank God for being so quick to forgive us. This is what God wants in his Church—people who are quick to forgive.

OUR WORSHIP SERIES: "I want a church that..." Every individual would complete that sentence with their own interests, priorities, and preferences. From the size of the building to the style of worship to the color of the carpet! What do you want in a church? In this worship series, we see the error in that question. Jesus bought the Church with his blood - it belongs to Him. So the right question then is "what does God want in a church?" In these five weeks we see that what God wants in a healthy church might be a little different than many manmade lists. It's not about the outside or the activities - it's about the heart and about the Word. The rest is just details.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Preacher: Pastor Jon Enter Piano/Organ: Luke Dorn
Vocalists: Luke and Allison Dorn, Jubilate Choir (10:30)

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

Order of Worship



HYMN: His Mercy Is More

CW 579

Verse one and the first refrain will be sung by the cantor/choir.
The refrain is sung twice after the last verse.



1 What love could re - mem - ber no wrongs we have done?
2 What pa - tience would wait as we con - stant - ly roam,
3 What rich - es of kind - ness he lav - ished on us;



Om - ni - scient, all - know - ing, he counts not their sum;
what Fa - ther so ten - der is call - ing us home!
his blood was the pay - ment, his life was the cost.



thrown in - to a sea with - out bot - tom or shore,
He wel - comes the weak - est, the vil - est, the poor;
We stood 'neath a debt we could nev - er af - ford;



our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.
our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.
our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.



Praise the Lord! His mer - cy is more!



Strong - er than dark - ness, new ev - 'ry morn; our



sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more!

Please stand after the hymn.

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.

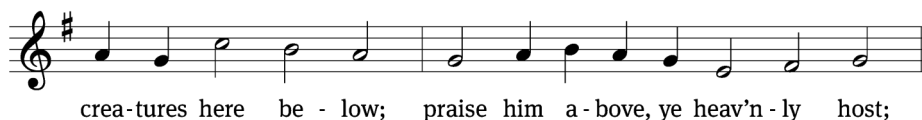
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

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 † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

RESPONSE: Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

CW 579



THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, you graciously forgive us all our sins and abundantly provide for all our needs of body and soul. Give us confidence in your mercy, and teach us also to be merciful to our neighbor, that we willingly forgive all people, and judging only ourselves, lead blessed lives to your glory; 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

Genesis 50:15-21

Joseph's brothers had treated him badly. Joseph was quick to forgive them and free them from the prison of their past.

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" ¹⁶So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

¹⁸His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Acts 7:54-60

Stephen imitates Christ's prayer of forgiveness as he is martyred for his faith.

⁵⁴When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. ⁵⁵But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶"Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

⁵⁷At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ⁵⁸dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

⁵⁹While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel

Matthew 5:38-44

Jesus teaches his followers to seek forgiveness instead of vengeance.

³⁸"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' ³⁹But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. ⁴⁰And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. ⁴¹If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. ⁴²Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

⁴³"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Children's Devotion



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give,"
 2 How can your par - don reach and bless
 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls



you taught us, Lord, to pray, but you a - lone can
 the un - for - giv - ing heart that broods on wrongs and
 the truth we dim - ly knew: how small are oth - ers'
 and bid re - sent - ment cease; then, bound to all in



grant us grace to live the words we say.
 will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 debts to us, how great our debt to you!
 bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.

Sermon

"Pray it forward"

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.



(10:30am) Installation of Sunday JAM Teachers

Salem members who are helping with our Sunday JAM children's ministry are invited forward to be installed as ministers of the Word in this program.

M: Dear friends in Christ, you have volunteered to be called as teachers and helpers in Salem's Sunday JAM children's ministry. You are doing the work the Lord has committed to his Church: to teach the gospel of Jesus Christ, to make disciples of all nations, and to feed the lambs of the Lord Jesus. You do this work on behalf of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church and in association with the parents who entrust their children to your instruction and care.

Your work is both a great privilege and serious responsibility. To equip yourselves for this blessed work, it is necessary that you faithfully study God's Word, devote yourselves to prayer for those in your care, and carefully prepare for the lessons you will teach. It is also of great importance in the teaching of the Savior's little ones that you set an example by leading Christian lives. I now ask you in the presence of God and this congregation: Are you willing to accept this responsibility and to do your work faithfully, according to the ability God has given to you? If so, answer: Yes, and I ask God to help me.

Teachers: Yes, and I ask God to help me.

M: I now install you as teachers and helpers in the Sunday JAM children's ministry of Salem Lutheran Church in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. May God grant you his Holy Spirit and give you wisdom and strength to carry out your duties to his glory and for the good of the children.

Please stand.

Prayer of the Church

M: Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

C: Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.

M: Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

C: Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.

M: Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

C: Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.

M: Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

C: Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.

M: Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

C: Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.

M: Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

C: Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.

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

Silent prayer

M: Gracious God, as we give thanks today for teachers in our Sunday JAM program and as we recognize teachers in our Salem School, we ask your blessing on them and all who share your Gospel with the young. Bless teachers with patience and purpose as they share important truths about things earthly and divine. Give students eagerness to learn and willingness to obey. Lead parents to make use of every form of Christian education we offer, that the partnership between church and home might bless children with strong and deep faith.

C: In Jesus' name we pray. 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: Oh, How Good It Is

CW 731



1 Oh, how good it is when the fam - 'ly of God dwells to -
2 Oh, how good it is on this jour - ney we share to re -
3 Oh, how good it is to em - brace his com - mand to pre -



geth - er in spir - it, in faith and u - ni - ty. Where the
joyce with the hap - py and weep with those who mourn. For the
fer one an - oth - er, for - give as he for - gives. When we



bonds of peace, of ac - cept - ance and love are the
weak find strength, the af - flict - ed find grace when we
live as one we all share in the love of the



fruits of his pres - ence here a - mong us.
of - fer the bless - ing of be - long - ing.
Son with the Fa - ther and the Spir - it.

Refrain



So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord,

and with one heart we'll live out his word,
 till the whole earth sees the Re - deem - er has come,
 for he dwells in the pres-ence of his peo - ple.

(10:30am) Bibles For Children in 2nd Grade

Salem enjoys sharing our gifts by giving members of our church and students in our school Bibles of their own at the beginning of their 2nd grade school year. We pray these Bibles become a treasured possession and that our children find God's great love in them.

(10:30am) Recognition of Salem Lutheran School Teachers

God asks us to pray for and support those we call to do his ministry on our behalf. We ask the teachers of Salem Lutheran School to stand so that we can recognize them and better know and encourage them in their important work.

WELS Connection

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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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 9:15am in the sanctuary. Adults and teens are invited to a presentation by two of our members on a mission trip they took to share Jesus in Mormon areas in 2022. That presentation will be in the fellowship hall downstairs.

For Worship Next Week—A New Series Begins!

Worship theme: Tell Us a Story—A Story of Perplexing Generosity
 Bible Readings: Jonah 3:10-4:11, Romans 9:6-16, Matthew 10:1-16
 Hymns: 536, 588, 668, 582, 608

See the worship series intro at www.salemlutheran.org/preview.

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.

