

THE TIME



IN BETWEEN

a time for



FAITHFUL
SERVICE



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

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Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

*The Time In Between—
A time for faithful service*

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, bless me in your Word today with gifts of faith, hope, and love. Move me to kindness, gentleness, patience, self-control, and all the gifts your Holy Spirit gives. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: As we wait for Christ to return, we are not to sit still and be idle. Christ has not yet returned because there is still work to be done—work God carries out through us, his Church. Until Christ comes again and says, “Stop!” believers will be busy in faithful service. Christ has given every believer gifts and talents, and he calls us to use them all for his glory. In the time between Christ's first and second coming, we use everything the master has given us to live according to his will and to carry out his mission.

OUR WORSHIP SERIES: In the great timeline of human history, there are two significant points: the first time Christ came to our world to win salvation and the second time Christ will come to establish his everlasting kingdom. We live in the time in between those two points. It is a time of tension. We know that peace and perfection are ours already because of what Jesus did the first time he came but we do not enjoy a peaceful and perfect existence yet. As the church year draws to a close, Scripture points us toward the end of time when Christ will come again. Until then Christ teaches us how to live in the time in between.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Preacher: Pastor Jon Enter

Liturgist: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Organ: Robyn Stoller

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Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting One



HYMN: Forth in Your Name, O Lord, I Go

CW 739 sts. 1-2, 4-5



1 Forth in your name, O Lord, I go, my dai - ly
2 The task your wis - dom has as - signed, O let me
4 Give me to bear your eas - y yoke and ev - 'ry
5 For you I joy - ous - ly em - ploy what - ev - er



la - bor to pur - sue, de - ter - mined on - ly
cheer - ful - ly ful - fill; in all my works your
mo - ment watch and pray and still to things e -
you in grace have giv'n; I run my dai - ly



you to know in all I think or speak or do.
pres - ence find, and prove your good and per - fect will.
ter - nal look and has - ten to your glo - rious day.
course with joy and close - ly walk with you to heav'n.

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 + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN: Before You I Kneel (*Gloria in Excelsis*)

CW 735 sts. 1-2



1 Be - fore you I kneel, my Mas - ter and Mak - er, to of - fer the
2 Be - fore you I kneel and ask for your good - ness to cov - er the



work of my hands. For this is the day you've giv - en your
work of my hands, for pa - tience and peace to shape all my



ser - vant; I will re - joice and be glad
la - bor; your grace for thorns in my path.



for the strength I have to live and breathe, for each
Flow with - in me like a liv - ing stream; wear a -



skill your grace has giv - en me, for the needs and op - por -
way the stones of pride and greed, till your ways are dwell - ing



tu - ni - ties that will glo - ri - fy your great name.
deep in me and a har - vest of life is grown.

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 Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us steadfast in true and living faith, and present us at last holy and blameless before you; 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

Exodus 3:1-10

God called Moses to serve His people in faithful leadership.

¹Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

⁴When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

And Moses said, "Here I am."

⁵"Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." ⁶Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(10:30) When You Pass Through the Waters

Jubilate Choir

arr. Paul D Webber

Fear not, fear not,
for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters,
I will be with you; through the rivers,
they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire,
you shall not be burned;
and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the LORD your God,
I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One, your Savior.

Second Reading

Romans 12:1-8

When we keep God's mercy in view, we understand and appreciate the gifts he gives us in Christ, and we use those gifts faithfully.

¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

³For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus calls his followers to faithful service in grateful response to the gifts that the master has given and in joyful anticipation of the master's impending return.

¹⁴“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

²¹“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!’

²²“The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

²³“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!’

²⁴“Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

²⁶“His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

²⁸“ ‘So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Children's Devotion

Hymn of the Day: O God, Your Hand the Heavens Made CW 751



1 O God, your hand the heav-ens made and all that they con - tain;
2 To us are giv - en gifts di - vine, all tal - ents you have sent;
3 De - liv - er us from self - ish aims, true stew - ards we would be;



the world ap-peared at your com-mand, and in it now you reign.
in - spire us now to use them well your king-dom to ex - tend.
en - dow us with a deep de - sire to live un - self - ish - ly.



The rest - less sea, the land, the sky your hand-i - work de - clare;
We hold each gift a trust from you nor claim it as our own;
A full ac-count-ing we must give and see you face to face;



the touch of your cre - a - tive pow'r is pres - ent ev - 'ry - where.
we grate - ful - ly ac - knowl - edge, Lord, all things are yours a - lone.
let us ap - proach your throne with joy, sup - port - ed by your grace.

Sermon

Based on Exodus 3:1-10

"Can't or Won't?"

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



 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

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.

Closing Prayer

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: Before You I Kneel

CW 735



3 Be - fore you we kneel, our Mas - ter and Mak - er; es - tab - lish the
work of our hands, and or - der our steps to seek first your
king - dom in ev - 'ry small and great task.
May we live the gos - pel of your grace, serve your
pur - pose in our fleet - ing days, then our lives will bring e -
ter - nal praise and all glo - ry to your great name.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

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 Salem School Kindergarten room. All others are invited to attend an open forum on the proposed new constitution in the sanctuary at the same time.

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: A Time to Yearn for the End

Bible Readings: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:31-46

Hymns: 494, 487, 663, 850

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP



Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!

As our nation gives thanks for the blessings poured out on us, we Christians know the God to whom those thanks can be directed.

Spend time with the Lord this Thanksgiving as we celebrate the God who gives every blessing.

Thanksgiving Eve: 6:30pm

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.

