



# God's Family Tree

WORSHIP AT THE JESSE TREE  
SALEM SCHOOL GRADES 5 - 8



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**W**elcome! 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.

## Order of Worship



### **HYMN: Now Sing We, Now Rejoice**

CW 363 sts. 1-2



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, now raise to heav'n our voice;  
2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to thee.



he from whom joy stream - eth poor in a man - ger lies;  
Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O pure and ho - ly Child;



not so bright - ly beam - eth the sun in yon - der skies.  
thro' thy grace and mer - it, blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!  
draw me un - to thee! Draw me un - to thee!

*Please Stand*

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son  $\dagger$  and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

**Children:** There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
**Congregation:** **and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.**

**Children:** And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him,  
**Congregation:** **the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,**

**Children:** the Spirit of counsel and might,  
**Congregation:** **the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.**

*Isaiah 11:1–2*

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**M:** Let us pray.

O God, at the incarnation of Your only-begotten Son You brought to fulfillment Your ancient promise of a Savior to Adam through Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Jesse, David, and finally Joseph and Mary. We thank You that, in Holy Baptism, You have grafted us into Your Family Tree that we, with Your whole family in heaven and on earth, may sing Your praises eternally; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

**ANTIPHON: Behold, A Branch is Growing** (*children sing*) CW 360 st 1

1 Behold, a branch is growing of loveliest form and grace!  
As prophets sang, foreknowing, it springs from Jesse's race.

*Be Seated*

## **Narration**

**SONG: The Tree of Life** (*children sing*) Stephen P. Starke

1. The tree of life with ev'ry good in Eden's holy orchard stood,  
And of its fruit so pure and sweet God let the man and woman eat.  
Yet in this garden also grew another tree, of which they knew;  
Its lovely limbs with fruit adorned against whose eating God had warned.
2. The stillness of that sacred grove was broken as the serpent strove  
With tempting voice to Eve beguile and Adam too by sin defile.  
O day of sadness when the breath of fear and darkness, doubt and death,  
Its awful poison first displayed within the world so newly made.

## The Tree Planted: Adam and Eve

### Narration

**Scripture Reading:** A reading from the Book of Genesis.

*So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are You above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”*



*To the woman he said, “I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”*

*To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life..You will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”*

Genesis 3:14–19

Student: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Scripture Reading:** A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

*Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil.*

Hebrews 2:14-15

S: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**SONG: The Tree of Life (All sing)**

- 3. What mercy God showed to our race, a plan of rescue by His grace:  
In sending One from woman’s seed, the One to fill our greatest need—  
For on a tree uplifted high his only Son for sin would die,  
Would drink the cup of scorn and dread to crush the ancient serpent’s  
head!**

4. **Now from that tree of Jesus' shame flows life eternal in His name;  
For all who trust and will believe, salvation's living fruit receive.  
And of this fruit so pure and sweet the Lord invites the world to eat,  
To find within this cross of wood the tree of life with ev'ry good.**

## The Tree Planted: Noah and the Flood

### Narration

**Scripture Reading:** A reading from the Book of Genesis.

*Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him...I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth."*

*And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth...Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."*



*Genesis 9:8, 11–13, 16*

**S:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**Scripture Reading:** A reading from the First Letter of St. Peter.

*For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also...It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,*

*1 Peter 3:18–21*

**S:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## SONG: Thy Holy Wings *(children sing)*

Caroline V. Sandell-Berg

Thy holy wings, O Savior, spread gently over me,  
And let me rest securely through good and ill in thee.  
Oh, be my strength and portion, my rock and hiding place,  
And let my ev'ry moment be lived within thy grace.

Oh, wash me in the waters of Noah's cleansing flood;  
Give me a willing spirit, a heart both clean and good.  
Oh take into thy keeping thy children great and small,  
And while we sweetly slumber, enfold us one and all.

## Narration

### ANTIPHON: Behold, A Branch is Growing *(children sing)* CW 360 st 1

- Behold, a branch is growing of loveliest form and grace!  
As prophets sang, foreknowing, it springs from Jesse's race.

## The Tree Promised: Abraham

## Narration

### Scripture Reading: A reading from the Book of Genesis.

*The Lord had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing...And all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*



Genesis 12:1-3

S: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### Scripture Reading: A reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians.

*Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.*

Galatians 3:13-14

S: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

# HYMN: Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

CW 315 sts 1, 3-4

The children will sing the first verse.



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, who has tru - ly  
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,  
4 Sav - ior, hear my wel - come cry— loud ho - san - nas



kept his word and at last to us did send  
Ja - cob's Lord— him of two - fold race be - hold—  
lift - ed high! King of glo - ry, en - ter in;



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.  
tru - ly came, as long fore - told.  
cleansed my soul of ev - 'ry sin.

## The Tree Promised: Isaac

### Narration

**Scripture Reading:** A reading from the Book of Genesis.

*The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, "I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore...And through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed.*



Genesis 22:15–18

S: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

**Scripture Reading:** A reading from the First Letter of St. Peter.

*For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.*

1 Peter 1:18–19

S: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**ANTIPHON: Agnus Dei (Jesus, Lamb of God)** (children sing)

Jesus, Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us.

Jesus, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Jesus, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.

**The Tree Promised: Jacob**

**Narration**

**Scripture Reading:** A reading from the Book of Genesis.

Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. When he reached a certain place, *he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the Lord, and he said:*



*“I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. ... All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”*

*When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it.” He was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven.”*

*Genesis 28:10–17*

S: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Scripture Reading:** A reading from the Gospel according to St. John.

*[Jesus said,] “I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”*

John 1:51

S: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



## **SONG: Alleluia to Jesus** (children sing)

- 1 As Jacob with travel was weary one day,  
At night on a stone for a pillow he lay;  
He saw in a vision a ladder so high  
That its foot was on earth and its top in the sky.

**Refrain:** Alleluia to Jesus, who died on the tree,  
And hath raised up a ladder of mercy for me,  
And hath raised up a ladder of mercy for me.

- 2 This ladder is long, it is strong and well made,  
Has stood hundreds of years and is not yet decayed;  
Many millions have climbed it and reached Zion's hill,  
And thousands by faith are climbing it still. (Refrain)

### The Tree Promised: Moses

#### **Narration**

**Scripture Reading:** A reading from the Book of Exodus.

*Now 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 desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There 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...*

*Then 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. The 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. So 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..."*

*When you enter the land that the Lord will give you as he promised, observe this ceremony. And when your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?' then tell them, 'It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes when he struck down the Egyptians.'"*

*Exodus 3:1-2, 6-8a; 12:25-27a*

**S:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.



**Scripture Reading:** A reading from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians.  
For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth.

1 Corinthians 5:7b-8

S: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **CONGREGATIONAL ANTIPHON: *Agnus Dei* (Jesus, Lamb of God)**

Jesus, Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us.

Jesus, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Jesus, Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.

### **Final Narration**

#### **ANTIPHON: Behold, A Branch is Growing** (children sing) CW 360 st 1

1 Behold, a branch is growing of loveliest form and grace!

As prophets sang, foreknowing, it springs from Jesse's race.

### **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.*



### **Prayer**

M: Let us pray.

O God, because You once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant that we who have known the mystery of that Light here on earth may come to the full measure of its joys in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

M: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

## Lord's Prayer (Sung to the tune of Away in a Manger)

Our Father in heaven all praise to Your name!  
Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same.  
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord reign alone;  
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.

**The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;  
As we forgive others, our sins take away;  
In times of temptation, to lead us; be near.  
From evil deliver Your children most dear.**

**For Yours is the kingdom, o'er all things You reign.  
And Yours is the power; all things You maintain.  
To You be the glory, resounding again  
From all of creation, forever! Amen.**

M: The Lord bless you and keep you in His Christmas grace. May the blessing of the almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you now and forever. Amen.

## Hymn: Silent Night

CW 337



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight. Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
love's pure light ra - dianc beams from thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy



peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

# *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.

