

Third Sunday in Lent

March 2-3, 2024



# The Worth of Worship



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

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[www.salemlutheran.org](http://www.salemlutheran.org)



## **Third Sunday in Lent**

*Rethinking Religion—  
Rethinking the Worth of Worship*

**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.

**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:** Christians worship God in all they do as they respond to his grace with gratitude and thanksgiving. When individual Christians gather together to praise God we call it corporate, or public, worship. Some think public worship is about what they do for God. They attend out of obligation or duty. They attend without attention. Proper worship is about what God does for us. We gather around Word and sacrament and the Holy Spirit moves us to love and trust in God above all things. Moved by the cross of Christ, we bow down before our God. We commune with him. And that's exactly what God wants.

**WORSHIP SERIES:** Everyone makes assumptions about God. Likewise, everyone makes assumptions about religion. Increasingly, those assumptions are negative. Do we know the truth about our faith well enough to answer the questions of those who don't understand Christianity? In this year's Lenten season we turn to Jesus to see what Christian faith is truly all about. We let him replace our own assumptions with truth. Jesus, help us to rethink religion!

### ***SERVING GOD, SERVING US:***

Guest Pastor: Pastor Jon Enter

Organ: Robyn Stoller

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# Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting Four



**Handbell Preservice Music**

*Take It to the Lord in Prayer*

## Hymn: Open, Lovely Doors

CW 912



1 O - pen, love - ly doors, and let me come in - to God's  
2 With a song I've come to greet you; come to me, dear  
3 You de - serve my deep - est rev - 'rence; sanc - ti - fy me



house to - day! This is where great joys be - set me  
Lord, I pray. Where you let your peo - ple meet you  
through and through. Let my wor - ship in your pres - ence



more than I can sing or say. Here I view God's  
heav - en's light is bright as day. Let my heart your  
clear - ly show my love for you. Lord of mer - cy,



glo - rious face, see his light, re - ceive his grace.  
heav - en be; Sav - ior, make your home in me.  
hear my cry: lift my heart to you on high!

*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.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

### ***Prayer of the Day***

M: Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, the spirit to think and do what is right that we, who cannot do anything that is good without you, may by your help be enabled to live according to your will; 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 20:1-17*

*The Ten Commandments teach us that God is to be worshiped above all. Why? He is the God who brought us out of slavery.*

<sup>1</sup>And God spoke all these words: <sup>2</sup>"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

<sup>3</sup>"You shall have no other gods before me. <sup>4</sup>"You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. <sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup>but showing

love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup>“You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup>“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup>but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

<sup>12</sup>“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup>“You shall not murder. <sup>14</sup>“You shall not commit adultery. <sup>15</sup>“You shall not steal. <sup>16</sup>“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup>“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## **(Sunday) Men’s Chorus Anthem**

## The Old Rugged Cross

*The choir will sing verses 1-3. The congregation is invited to join on verse 4.*

1. On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,  
The emblem of suff’ring and shame;  
And I love that old cross where the Dearest and Best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

*Refrain:* So I’ll cherish the old rugged cross,  
Till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
And exchange it someday for a crown.

2. Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,  
Has a wondrous attraction for me;  
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above  
To bear it to dark Calvary. *Refrain*

3. In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,  
A wondrous beauty I see,  
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,  
To pardon and sanctify me. *Refrain*

4. **To the old rugged cross I will ever be true;  
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;  
Then He'll call me someday to my home far away,  
Where His glory forever I'll share. *Refrain***

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

*Whatever it is you trust most, that is what you truly worship. Some worship intelligence. Others worship power. We worship Christ for what he did on the cross.*

<sup>18</sup>For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;  
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”

<sup>20</sup>Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

<sup>21</sup>For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

M: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gospel

Matthew 12:1-8

*Jesus teaches that following God's law is a matter of faith and heart, not just outward rule-following.*

<sup>1</sup>At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them. <sup>2</sup>When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, “Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath.”

<sup>3</sup>He answered, "Haven't you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? <sup>4</sup>He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread—which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests. <sup>5</sup>Or haven't you read in the Law that the priests on Sabbath duty in the temple desecrate the Sabbath and yet are innocent? <sup>6</sup>I tell you that something greater than the temple is here. <sup>7</sup>If you had known what these words mean, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the innocent. <sup>8</sup>For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated.*

## Children's Devotion

### Hymn: Salvation unto Us Has Come

CW 558 sts. 1, 3, 5, 8



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come by God's free grace and  
 3 It was a false, mis - lead - ing dream that God his law had  
 5 Yet as the law must be ful - filled or we must die de -  
 8 The law re - veals the guilt of sin and makes us con-science-



fa - vor; good works can - not a - vert our doom, they help and  
 giv - en that sin - ners could them-selves re-deem and by their  
 spair-ing, Christ came and has God's an - ger stilled, our hu - man  
 strick-en; but then the gos - pel en - ters in the sin - ful



save us nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus Christ a - lone, who  
 works gain heav - en. The law is but a mir - ror bright to  
 na - ture shar - ing. He has for us the law o - beyed and  
 soul to quick - en. Come to the cross, trust Christ, and live; the



did for all the world a - tone; he is our one Re - deem - er.  
 bring the in - bred sin to light that lurks with - in our na - ture.  
 thus the Fa - ther's ven - ge - ance stayed which o - ver us im - pend - ed.  
 law no peace can ev - er give, no com - fort and no bless - ing.

## Sermon

*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

## Handbell Offertory

Amazing Grace

*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.

## Hymn: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

CW 407



1 When I sur - ve y the won - drous cross on which the  
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the  
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and  
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
death of Christ, my God. All the vain things that  
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and  
trib - ute far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss and pour con-tempt on all my pride.  
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
sor - row meet or thorns com-pose so rich a crown?  
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

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.

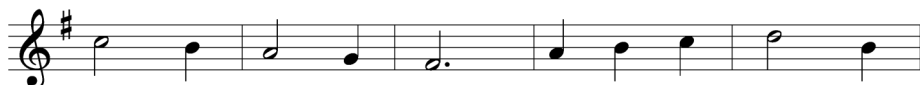
The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

## Hymn: Drawn to the Cross CW 808



1 Drawn to the cross, which you have blessed with heal - ing  
2 How well you know my griefs and fears, your grace a -  
3 Wash me and take a - way each stain; let noth - ing  
4 To pledge my la - bor will - ing - ly, which shall so



gifts for souls dis - tressed, to find in you my  
bused, my mis - spent years; so now to you with  
of my sin re - main. For cleans - ing through your  
sweet a ser - vice be that an - gels well might



life, my rest, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.  
con - trite tears, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.  
cross and pain, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.  
en - vy me, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.

## Silent Prayer and Announcements

### Spiritual Growth Encouragement—Jason Kehren

#### Acknowledgments

Setting Four from Christian Worship

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#### Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, children ages 3yrs to 6th grade are invited to attend Sunday JAM to learn about Jesus. JAM starts at 9:15 am in the kindergarten classroom. Adult Bible study begins at 9:15 in the fellowship hall downstairs

#### For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Rethinking the solution to sin

Bible Readings: Numbers 21:4-9, Ephesians 2:1-10, Isaiah 66:18-24, John 3:14-21

Hymns: 409, 570, 822, 519

# LENTEN WORSHIP AT SALEM



## **Midweek Lenten Services** *(4pm & 6:30 pm, with a meal between services)*

March 6	Pastor John Berg— Divinity, West St. Paul
March 13	Pastor Bob Edwards— Retired
March 20	Pastor Mark Wessel—Christ, North St. Paul

## **Palm Sunday**

March 23	5:00 pm Worship with Communion
March 24	8 am & 10:30 am Worship with Communion

## **Maundy Thursday— March 28**

6:30 pm Holy Thursday Worship with Communion

## **Good Friday— March 29**

10:00 am Good Friday Worship  
6:30 pm Good Friday Tenebrae

## **Easter Sunday— March 31** *(Breakfast served 8 am - 10:30 am)*

7:00 am Easter Dawn Worship with Communion  
9:00 am Easter Festival Worship  
10:45 am Easter Festival Worship

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

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## *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 with diaper-changing tables are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance.
- ✦ Our sanctuary is equipped with a "loop" system for hearing assistance. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position or ask an usher for a headset.
- ✦ You will find a connection card in your pew. Please share names, contact information, and prayer requests.
- ✦ 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 donate you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.
- ✦ Our services are streamed live on our YouTube channel. If you would prefer not to be on camera, please sit in the seats located beneath the balcony.

## *For those with young children*

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing, pray, and grow with us in our services.

We provide a few special worship aids and helps for families:

- ✦ Children's bulletins & activity bags are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- ✦ If you or your child needs a quiet space, you can use the fireside room down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is streamed live on a TV in the room.
- ✦ On Sunday mornings, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for the children's message. Parents are welcome too!

**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.**

