



GOD ON TRIAL

Restraint



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Midweek Lent #6

*Theme: God on Trial
Restraint*

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.

SERIES THEME: Our midweek Lent series theme is ***God on Trial***. The unbelieving world has always insisted on putting God on trial. As our society becomes more secular, we Christians are increasingly aware of the many ways in which God—and his people—are judged. Temptations are many in this environment: treating unbelievers as enemies, retreating from the world, even questioning God ourselves. How do we live as people of God in this hostile world? We find our model—and our motivation—in Jesus. This series takes us back to the moments when God was literally on trial before men in the person of Christ. In these inspired episodes, we find forgiveness for us and all people, love for our enemies, strength for our faith, and courage to testify to the truth.

TONIGHT'S FOCUS: We live in an emotionally charged, partisan world. It is important to remember that those against us, like Malchus, are fellow sinners with names and souls. They themselves are being led astray and there's no need for us to attack. Jesus demonstrates he is control. We can show restraint, even love, just as he did, without sacrificing what matters most.

Tonight we welcome Pastor Mark Wessel from Christ, North St. Paul as our guest preacher.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Preacher: Pastor Mark Wessel

Organ: Luke Dorn

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Order of Worship



Preservice Music & Words of Welcome

Please remain seated.

M: The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night, and peace at the last.

C: Amen.

M: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

C: To sing praise to your name, O Most High;

M: To herald your love in the morning,

C: Your truth at the close of day.

M: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

C: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: Who made heaven and earth.

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**C: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven,
And to you, my brothers and sisters,
That I have sinned in thought, word, and deed.**

By my fault,

By my own fault,

By my own grievous fault.

For this I pray to God Almighty to have mercy on me.

Forgive all my sins,

And bring me to everlasting life.

M: By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in him we are forgiven. Let us rest in his peace until the rising of the sun when we shall serve him in newness of life.

C: Amen.

Hymn: Christ Is the World's Light

CW 515



1 Christ is the world's light, Christ and none oth - er;
2 Christ is the world's peace, Christ and none oth - er;
3 Christ is the world's life, Christ and none oth - er;
4 Give God the glo - ry, God and none oth - er;



born in our dark - ness, he be - came our broth - er.
no one can serve him and de - spise an - oth - er.
sold once for sil - ver, mur - dered here, our broth - er.
give God the glo - ry, Spir - it, Son, and Fa - ther;



If we have seen him, we have seen the
Who else u - nites us, one with God the
He who re - deemed us reigns with God the
give God the glo - ry, God with us, our



Fa - ther: Glo - ry to God on high!
Fa - ther? Glo - ry to God on high!
Fa - ther: Glo - ry to God on high!
broth - er: Glo - ry to God on high!

THE PASSION HISTORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Part #5— *To Calvary*

PASTOR: "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked Pilate, the governor. With one voice the crowd cried out:

CONGREGATION: "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!"

PASTOR: Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder. Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. But they kept shouting,

CONGREGATION: "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

PASTOR: For the third time he spoke to them: "Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore, I will

have him punished and then release him.” But the Jews kept shouting,
CONGREGATION: “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.”

PASTOR: When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge’s seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement. It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour. Pilate said to the Jews: “Here is your king.” But they shouted,

CONGREGATION: “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!”

PASTOR: “Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked.

CONGREGATION: “We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered.

PASTOR: When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. He said: “I am innocent of this man’s blood. It is your responsibility!”

CONGREGATION: “Let his blood be on us and on our children!”

PASTOR: Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They stripped him and put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. “Hail, king of the Jews!” they said. They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. Falling on their knees they paid homage to him.

CONGREGATION: And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

PASTOR: As they led him away, they seized Simon of Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. Jesus turned and said to them:

“Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say,

‘Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore
and the breasts that never nursed!’

Then, ‘they will say to the mountains: “Fall on us!”
and to the hills: “Cover us!”’

For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. They came to a place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink

it. There they crucified him, along with the criminals – one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said,

CONGREGATION: “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

PASTOR: And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read, JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate:

CONGREGATION: “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.”

PASTOR: Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

(Verses compiled from the New International Version)

After the reading, the congregation joins in the seasonal response.

C: All we, like sheep, have gone astray. Each of us has turned to his own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. By his wounds, we are healed.

Hymn of the Day: Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

CW 733



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.

⁴⁷While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, ⁴⁸but Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

⁴⁹When Jesus’ followers saw what was going to happen, they said, “Lord, should we strike with our swords?” ⁵⁰And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

⁵¹But Jesus answered, “No more of this!” And he touched the man’s ear and healed him.

⁵²Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? ⁵³Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns.”

“God on Trial: Restraint”

Please remain seated after the sermon.

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 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.

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: Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace

CW 768 sts. 1, 3, 5



1 Lord of all na - tions, grant me grace to love all
3 For - give me, Lord, where I have erred by love - less
5 With your own love may I be filled and by your



peo - ple, ev - 'ry race; and in each per - son
act and thought - less word. Make me to see the
Ho - ly Spir - it willed, that all I touch, what -



help me view my kin - dred, loved, re - deemed by you.
wrong I do will hurt my neigh - bor, Lord, and you.
e'er I do, may be di - vine - ly touched by you.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Acknowledgments

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HOLY WEEK & EASTER WORSHIP

Palm Sunday

8:00 am Worship with Communion

9:15 am Bible Study and Jesus and Me

10:30 am Worship with Communion

Maundy Thursday

6:30pm Holy Thursday Worship with
Communion

Good Friday

10:00am Good Friday Worship

6:30 pm Good Friday Worship

Easter Sunday

7:00 am Easter Dawn Worship with
Communion

8:00 am - 10:30 am Easter Breakfast

9:00 am Easter Festival Worship

10:45 am Easter Festival Worship

PREPARING FOR Easter

Easter for Kids

Salem's Easter for Kids program will be held the Saturday before Easter weekend (March 23rd) from 10am–12pm. Parents are invited to stay and “travel” with their kids to different stations as Salem members share the joy of Easter with adults and kids alike. Easter for Kids is open to all children up to 5th grade. Easter for Kids is a



great chance for the unchurched to learn about our Savior too. Invite a friend! Register to attend on our website at www.salemlutheran.org.



Easter Breakfast

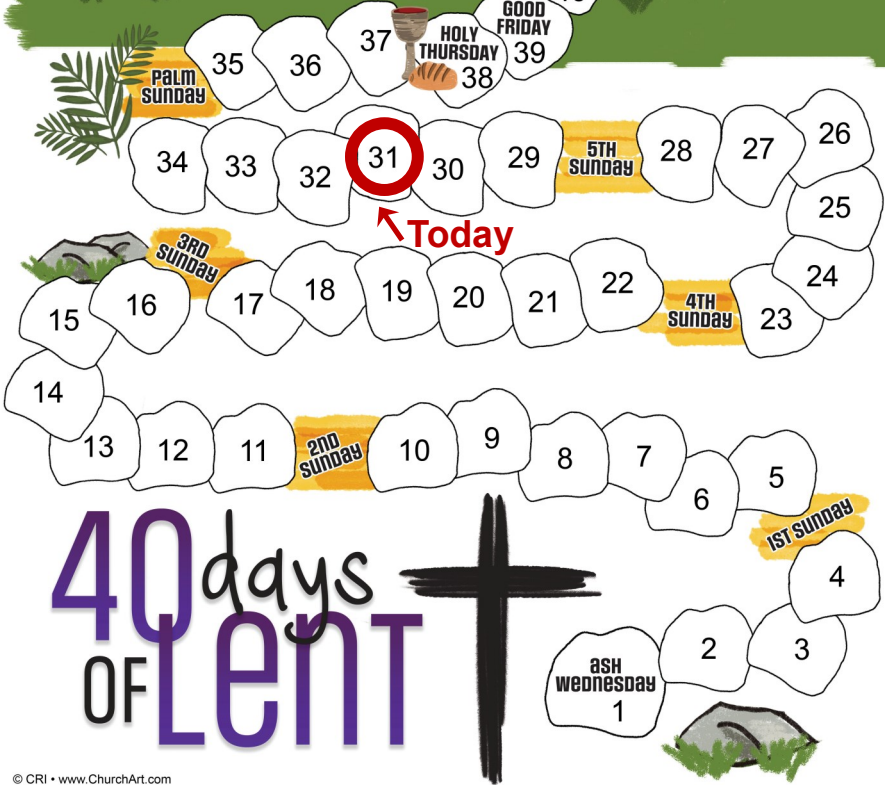
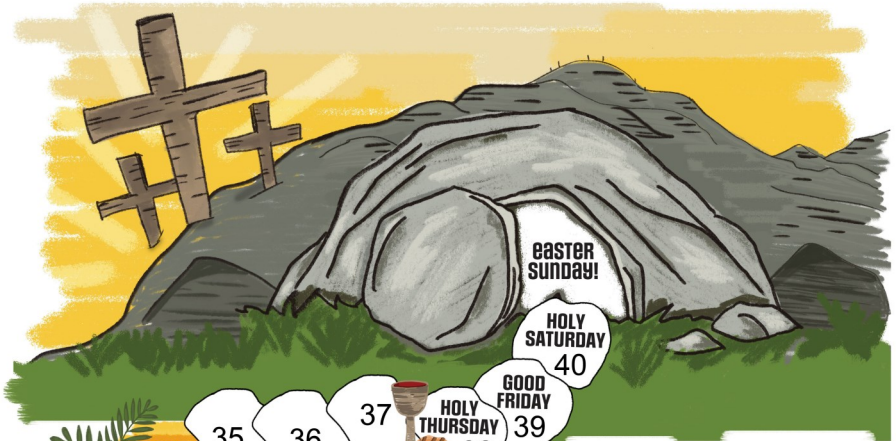
Each year Salem members enjoy an Easter breakfast together as part of our Easter celebration. We will continue this tradition this year! Please find the signup poster on the board in the church entry to see what items we need this year and ways to help. Thank you for serving and making our Easter joy a little brighter!

Easter Worship

Salem will celebrate Easter victory with three services on Easter Sunday morning. A sunrise service at 7am will be different from the other services, with readings and hymns reminding us of the wonder of the women's discovery of the empty tomb early Easter morning. Holy Communion will be offered in this quieter celebration of Easter victory.

Festival services at 9am & 10:45am will bring out our full-throated exultation as we celebrate loudly the meaning of Jesus' resurrection for every believer.

Choirs will sing, trumpets will play, and handbells will ring as the church rejoices in Easter triumph. Join us for one or more services Easter Sunday, and invite a friend to celebrate with you.



40 days OF LENT



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 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, on the wall opposite the sanctuary entrance. 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.**

