

March 29, 2024

SURELY,  
HE WAS  
THE  
SON OF  
GOD

*Matthew 27:54*



Good Friday



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

651-439-7831

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

**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.

**TONIGHT'S SERVICE:** The church remembers the crucifixion of our Lord. Our remembrance, while somber, is not a message of gloom, but an awe-filled adoration of Jesus as he offers up his life as the Lamb of God. Worship on Good Friday is not a funeral service for Jesus, but a time of reflection and adoration of the Lamb of God. We gather to celebrate the sacrifice of the cross. The mood of the service is contemplative, encouraging worshipers to reflect deeply upon their own life in the light of the Passion of our Lord.

We worship using the custom of "Tenebrae," which is Latin for "darkness." Throughout the course of worship lights are dimmed and candles are extinguished. These all represent Christ's life ebbing away. The service is closed by a loud noise called the *strepitus*, that calls to mind the earthquake at Jesus' death and the closing of the tomb. The sound also foreshadows Christ rending his tomb in triumph at his resurrection. After meditation in darkness the Christ candle is lit once again before the congregation departs the church.

**DISMISSAL AFTER THE SERVICE:** After the service, worshipers are encouraged to consider with prayer the great love of God that led to our Savior's sacrifice. There is no closing blessing or hymn. Rather, the service simply pauses until we conclude it in joy on Easter Sunday morning. When we meet again, our silence will be turned to joy at the good news of Jesus' victory over death.

**HOLY COMMUNION:** Our church observes the biblical practice of member communion (also called close communion). In Holy Communion we not only receive forgiveness from God but we also express the unique relationship our members have with each other. If you are not a member of our church, we kindly ask that you not take communion today, but speak with our pastor after the service. We would love to share the sacrament with you in the future.

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

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe      Organ: Robyn Stoller  
Choir Director: Luke Dorn

# Order of Worship



*Worshippers gather quietly.*

*The service begins with the tolling of the bell and the pastor enters in silence.*

## Reading

*Isaiah 53:1–10*

<sup>1</sup>Who has believed our message  
and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

<sup>2</sup>He grew up before him like a tender shoot,  
and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

<sup>3</sup>He was despised and rejected by mankind,  
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

<sup>4</sup>Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering,  
yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup>But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.

<sup>6</sup>We all, like sheep, have gone astray,  
each of us has turned to our own way;  
and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

<sup>7</sup>He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth;  
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,  
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

<sup>8</sup>By oppression and judgment he was taken away.

Yet who of his generation protested?  
For he was cut off from the land of the living;  
for the transgression of my people he was punished.

<sup>9</sup>He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death,  
though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

<sup>10</sup>Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,  
and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin,  
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,  
and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. The meal also bears witness to the unity and fellowship we share with each other. Therefore, we invite to communion all those who share in our confession by virtue of their membership here or in a sister WELS or ELS congregation. We ask visitors to speak to the pastor before communing.*

### Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

### Confessional Prayer

M: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

C: **Have mercy on us.**

M: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

C: **Have mercy on us.**

M: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

C: **Grant us your peace. Amen.**

### Communion Distribution

*For those who cannot have any alcohol for personal or medical reasons we offer white grape juice. You will find cups of white grape juice in the center of each communion tray. Gluten-free wafers are available by request for those medically unable to tolerate gluten.*

*Communicants may choose to receive the wine by individual or common cup. If you choose the common cup, please allow the individual tray to pass and then assist the minister by helping to tip the common cup.*

## Music for Meditation

## O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

*Worshipers are invited to consider both the price and blessing of Jesus' sacrifice for us as musicians play this sacred hymn without singing.*

O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,  
now scornfully surrounded, with thorns your only crown,  
O sacred head, no glory now from your face does shine;  
yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call you mine.

My burden in your passion, Lord, you have borne for me,  
for it was my transgression, my shame, on Calvary.  
I cast me down before you; wrath is my rightful lot.  
Have mercy, I implore you; Redeemer, spurn me not!

What language shall I borrow to thank you, dearest Friend,  
for this, your dying sorrow, your pity without end?  
O make me yours forever, and keep me strong and true;  
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love for you.

Lord, be my consolation, my shield when I must die;  
remind me of your passion when my last hour draws nigh.  
My eyes will then behold you, upon your cross will dwell;  
my heart will then enfold you— who dies in faith dies well!

## Response of Thanksgiving

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

**C: His mercy endures forever.**

*Psalm 118:1*

M: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

**C: We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

*1 Corinthians 11:26*

## Communion Prayer

M: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that you deliver to us through this sacrament. Comfort our hearts with the blessings of the body and blood of our Lord. Calm our spirits with the hope of everlasting life pledged through this blood of the new covenant. Renew us in faith by the work of your Spirit. Hear us for the sake of Christ, our Lamb.

**C: Amen.**

# SEVEN “WORDS” FROM THE CROSS

## Service Introduction

### First Word

Luke 23:32-34

<sup>32</sup>Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed.

<sup>33</sup>When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. <sup>34</sup>Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

### Response

M: Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me;

C: **They pierce my hands and my feet.**

M: They divide my garments among them

C: **and cast lots for my clothing.**

M: He bore the sin of many,

C: **and made intercession for the transgressors.**

M: Gracious Savior, you did not strike back with revenge against your enemies as they ridiculed and crucified you but prayed for their forgiveness. In your compassion, pardon us for our secret sins and sins we do not discern, and enlighten us to know and do your will.

C: **Amen.**

### Hymn: The Seven Words

CW 436 st. 1

1 Their nails were fresh - ly driv - en, their ha - tred  
clear - ly shown, when, “Let them be for - giv - en,”  
was heard at heav - en’s throne. Your en - e - mies, O



Je - sus, you loved be - yond de - gree, a love so  
pure and pre - cious it e - ven par - doned me.

*A candle is extinguished. Silence for meditation.*



## Second Word

Luke 23:35-43

<sup>35</sup>The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

<sup>36</sup>The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar

<sup>37</sup>and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

<sup>38</sup>There was a written notice above him, which read: This is the King of the Jews.

<sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

<sup>40</sup>But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? <sup>41</sup>We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

<sup>42</sup>Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

<sup>43</sup>Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

## Response

M: All who see me mock me;

**C: They hurl insults, shaking their heads.**

M: “He trusts in the Lord,” they say, “let the Lord rescue him.

**C: Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.”**

M: Remember me, Lord, when you show favor to your people.

**C: Come to my aid when you save them.**

M: Mighty Redeemer, remember us as we walk through the darkest valleys of life and realize that our time on earth is ending. Stay close to us when we feel the pain and loneliness of dying and take away our fears with your certain promise of paradise.

**C: Amen.**

On you, my King, depending, I'm rid of all my sins!  
My final day here ending, my first in heav'n begins.  
As you have truly spoken, in paradise I'll be,  
with you in bliss unbroken— you will remember me.

*A candle is extinguished. Silence for meditation.*



### Third Word

John 19:25–27

<sup>25</sup>Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup>When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," <sup>27</sup>and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

### Response

M: This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel,

**C: and to be a sign that will be spoken against,**

M: so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.

**C: And a sword will pierce your own soul too.**

M: Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?

**C: Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.**

M: Precious Jesus, you consider us friends and care about the needs of our bodies and souls. Keep us in your care as we walk the road of life and provide the blessings we need to gain safety, contentment, and joy in your service.

**C: Amen.**

### Hymn: The Seven Words

CW 436 st. 3

A Savior like no other, all self-concern denied,  
you served your grieving mother while you were crucified.  
My sin had made me filthy, but you, the perfect child,  
were designated guilty, and I am reconciled.

*A candle is extinguished. Silence for meditation.*





## Fourth Word

Matthew 27:45, 46

<sup>45</sup>From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land.

<sup>46</sup>About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).

## Response

M: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

C: **Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?**

M: My God, I cry out by day but you do not answer,

C: **by night, but I find no rest.**

M: “In that day,” declares the Sovereign Lord, “I will make the sun go down at noon

C: **and darken the earth in broad daylight.”**


M: Lord Jesus, you endured the horrific penalty of our sins as your Father turned his face from you on the cross. Compel us to see in your sacrifice the dreadful nature of sin and call us to acknowledge the amazing depth of your love. Overcome our shame, dear Savior, and give us grateful faith.

C: **Amen.**

## Hymn: The Seven Words

CW 436 st. 4

**Condemned, cut off, forsaken, outside the Father’s care,  
by terror overtaken, no ear would hear your prayer.  
On you God’s wrath was vented, on you his fury fell,  
when, on the cross tormented, you took my place in hell.**



*A candle is extinguished. Silence for meditation.*

## Fifth Word

John 19:28, 29

<sup>28</sup>After this, when he knew that all things necessary for the Scripture to be fulfilled had now been accomplished, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” <sup>29</sup>A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips.

## Response

M: My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;

**C: you lay me in the dust of death.**

M: I am worn out calling for help;

**C: my throat is parched.**

M: They put gall in my food

**C: and gave me vinegar for my thirst.**

M: Dear Jesus, as our brother on earth you endured the agony of pain that besieged your body when your sacrifice was complete. Knowing our experiences, hover over us with your care and compassion when our bodies and hearts are hurting. Provide us with strength that we may confess you with confidence and power.

**C: Amen.**

## Hymn: The Seven Words

CW 436 st. 5

**My Lord, in death's dark valley, both soul and body drained,  
one drink would help you rally what little strength remained  
to raise your voice in vict'ry, to sound your foe's defeat—  
the highest point in hist'ry— my rescue was complete.**

*A candle is extinguished. Silence for meditation.*



## Sixth Word

John 19:30

<sup>30</sup>When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

## Response

M: On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem,

**C: to cleanse them from sin and impurity.**

M: Because of the blood of my covenant with you,

**C: I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit.**

M: I will remove the sin of this land in a single day.

**C: I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.**

M: Gracious Redeemer, you paid the full price for our redemption and have released us forever from the hold of Satan, the power of sin, and the fear of death. Protect us from the devil's claim that we need to do more and from the accusation of our consciences that we have not done enough. Lead us to place our entire confidence in you and to live our lives secure in your grace.

**C: Amen.**

## **Hymn: The Seven Words**

CW 436 st. 6

**Though sin's most lethal wages To me, O Christ, were due,  
the guilt of all the ages came crashing down on you.  
Most surely, "It is finished"— my debt is fully paid;  
my joy is undiminished; my heart is unafraid.**

*A candle is extinguished. Silence for meditation.*



## **Seventh Word**

Luke 23:44–46

<sup>44</sup>It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, <sup>45</sup>for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup>Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

## **Response**

M: Into your hands I commit my spirit;

**C: deliver me, Lord, my faithful God.**

M: He has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one;

**C: he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.**

M: He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors.

**C: He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.**

M: Loving Savior, at the moment of your death you gave yourself into the loving hands of your Father. As we close our eyes in death, lead us to commit our bodies and souls to him who has summoned us by name and made us his own because of you and your love. Then, we pray, let us depart in peace.

**C: Amen.**

**My death will be triumphant no matter how I die;  
Lord Jesus, in that instant escort my soul on high  
into my Father's keeping, all-blameless and all-blest,  
like waking up from sleeping, his hands my place of rest.**

*The large Christ Candle is extinguished and removed from the sanctuary while the assembly remains silent in meditation.*

### Reading

John 19:31–42

<sup>31</sup>Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. <sup>32</sup>The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. <sup>33</sup>But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. <sup>34</sup>Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. <sup>35</sup>The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. <sup>36</sup>These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," <sup>37</sup>and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."

<sup>38</sup>Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. <sup>39</sup>He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. <sup>40</sup>Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. <sup>41</sup>At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. <sup>42</sup>Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

### 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.



## **(7pm) Choir Anthem**

## *The Power of the Cross*

By Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

*The congregation is invited to join the choir on verse 3*

1. O to see the dawn of the darkest day; Christ on the road to Calvary.  
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then nailed to a cross of wood.  
This is the pow'r of the cross: Christ became sin for us.  
Took the blame, bore the wrath; we stand forgiven at the cross.
  
2. Now the daylight flees;  
Now the ground beneath quakes as its Maker bows His head.  
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life,  
"Finished!" the vict'ry cry.  
This the pow'r of the cross: Christ became sin for us.  
Took the blame, bore the wrath; we stand forgiven at the cross.  
Christ was slain for us.
  
3. **O to see my name written in the wounds,  
For through Your suff'ring I am free.  
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,  
Won through Your selfless love!  
This the pow'r of the cross: Son of God, slain for us.  
What a love, what a cost!  
We stand forgiven at the cross.**

What a love, what a cost! We stand forgiven at the cross.

## **Prayer of the Church**

M: God Most Holy, look with mercy on this, your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, be given over into the hands of the wicked, and suffer death upon the cross. Keep us always faithful to him, our only Savior, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C: **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.**

*A loud sound is now be heard in the sanctuary. Known as the Strepitus, this sound represents the rending of Jesus' tomb. The reappearance of the Christ Candle foreshadows Christ's return to life on Easter morning.*

## **Men's Chorus: Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart** CW 817 st. 3

Lord, let at last thine angels come, to Abr'ham's bosom bear me home  
that I may die unfearing;  
and in its narrow chamber keep my body safe in peaceful sleep  
until thy reappearing.  
And then from death awaken me that these mine eyes with joy may see,  
O Son of God, thy glorious face, my Savior and my fount of grace.  
Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend, my prayer attend,  
and I will praise thee without end.

### **Dismissal statement**

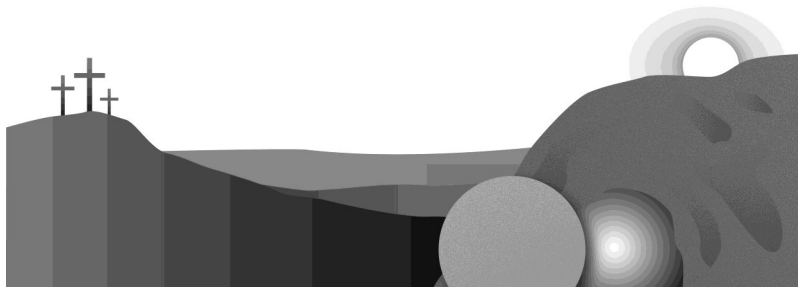
M: The absence of light at the end of our service has symbolized the three days Jesus' body lay in the tomb. It appeared that all was lost, including Jesus Himself. But a lighted candle returns in anticipation of the light of Easter morning. As this flickering flame penetrates the darkness, remember how the light of Christ's resurrection penetrates the world through His faithful followers.

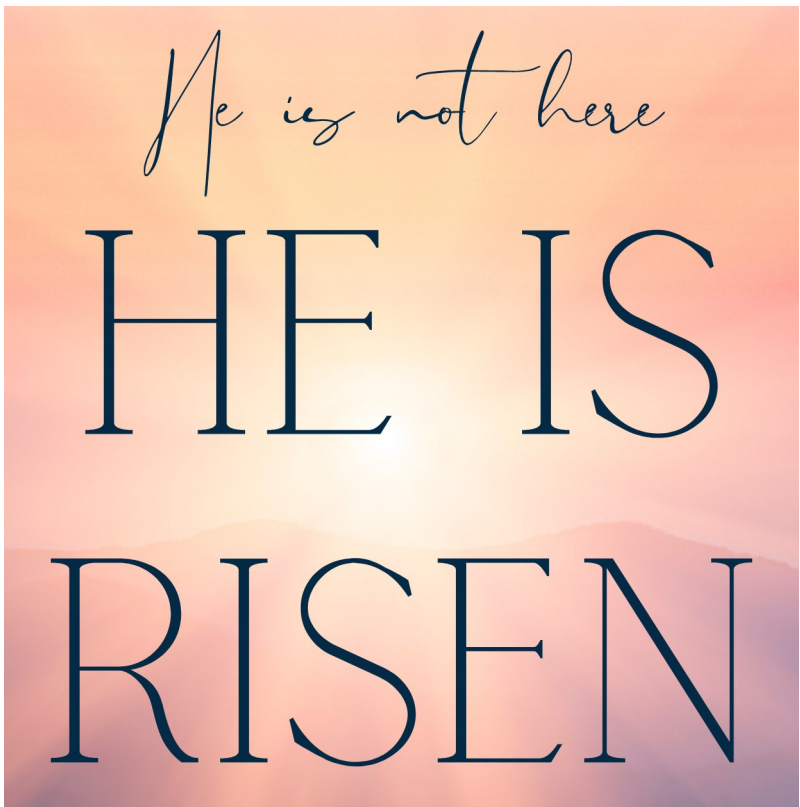
**Jesus kept His promise. His work is done.  
Your sins are forgiven. Go in peace!**

*The minister exits in silence. Worshipers may remain for prayer and meditation before dispersing quietly.*

### **Acknowledgments**

Setting One from Christian Worship  
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**Join us again as our Friday sorrow turns to  
Sunday joy on Easter morning!**

***Easter Sunday Worship (March 31)***

7:00 am Easter Dawn Worship with Communion

8:00 - 10:30 am Easter Breakfast

9:00 am Easter Festival Worship

10:45 am Easter Festival Worship

*(There is NO Saturday service on March 30th.)*

# 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, 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.**

