GOD IS WITH US THROUGH THE STORMS OF LIFE



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Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

A Top-Down Faith-- God is with us through the storms of life

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: Almighty Father, you hear our every prayer and know our every need. Thank you for your protection and blessing. Receive our praise today and hear the prayers we offer in our Savior's name. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: The power of storms like hurricanes, tornadoes, and thunderstorms can inspire both awe and terror. However, we know the Almighty God can stop storms. He can also take away metaphorical storms - the troubles and trials of life. So, if he can, why doesn't he? God uses times of trial in our lives to remind us that he is by our side within them, holding us close. Today God gives us the top-down faith to see that even our dark days serve God's purpose. God promises to be with us through all the storms of life.

Our Worship Series: The phrase "from the top down" often refers to a system where directions, thoughts, and practices flow from management down to others. Where the will and beliefs of those "at the top" are imposed—sometimes aggressively—on those below. Christian teachings come "from the top down," but not that those teachings are oppressively imposed on us. When we call Christianity a "top-down faith," we mean that God tells us things so beautiful and good that they could only have come from him.

A WORD ABOUT 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 congregation, 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.

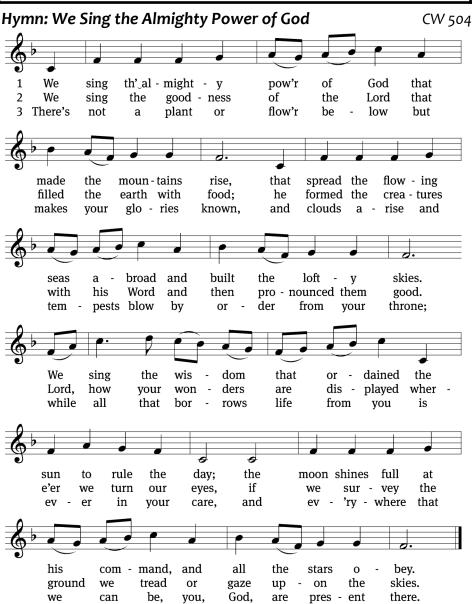
SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Preacher: Pastor Ryan Wolfe Organ: Luke Dorn Piano: Chloe Wolfe

Order of Worship



CW Hymnal, Setting One



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: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

C: Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them. (Psalm 32

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

And we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

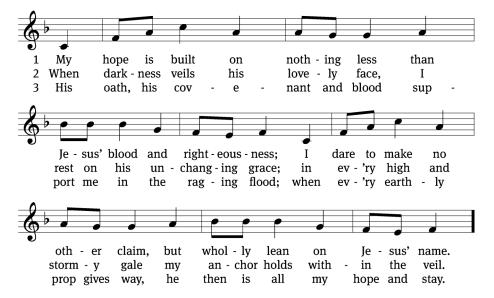
Silence for meditation and reflection

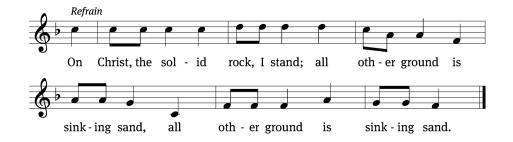
M: God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

C: Amen.



CW 564 sts. 1, Ref, 2-3





THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

O Lord our God, so govern the nations on earth and direct the affairs of this world that your church may worship you in peace and joy; 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

Job 38:1-11

Job questioned why God had allowed trouble to befall him. Out of a storm the LORD spoke to Job, explaining that no mere man has the capacity to understand the wonderful ways God works.

I will question you, and you shall answer me.

¹Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm. He said:

²"Who is this that obscures my plans with words without knowledge?

³Brace yourself like a man;

4"Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation?
 Tell me, if you understand.
 5Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know!
 Who stretched a measuring line across it?
 6On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone—
 7while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?
 8

8"Who shut up the sea behind doors
 when it burst forth from the womb,
 9when I made the clouds its garment
 and wrapped it in thick darkness,
 10when I fixed limits for it
 and set its doors and bars in place,
 11when I said, 'This far you may come and no farther;
 here is where your proud waves halt'?

M: The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Acts 27:13-26

St. Paul and others were on a boat in the middle of a hurricane. God did not calm the storm. Yet, he was with them in the storm, accomplishing his good and gracious work.

¹³When a gentle south wind began to blow, they saw their opportunity; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete. ¹⁴Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the Northeaster, swept down from the island. ¹⁵The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along. ¹⁶As we passed to the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure, ¹⁷so the men hoisted it aboard. Then they passed ropes under the ship itself to hold it together. Because they were afraid they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship be driven along. ¹⁸We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. ¹⁹On the third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands. ²⁰When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved.

²¹After they had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: "Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. ²²But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will

be destroyed. ²³Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me ²⁴and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' ²⁵So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. ²⁶Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island."

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel Mark 4:35-41

Even the winds and the waves must obey Jesus Christ.

³⁵That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." ³⁶Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

³⁹He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

⁴⁰He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

⁴¹They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Children's Devotion

Hymn of the Day: Evening and Morning

CW 501



Sermon

Based on Mark 4:35-41

"A short story about a great Savior"

Please stand after the sermon.

THANKSGIVING

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated.

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.





Connect Card

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.

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.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

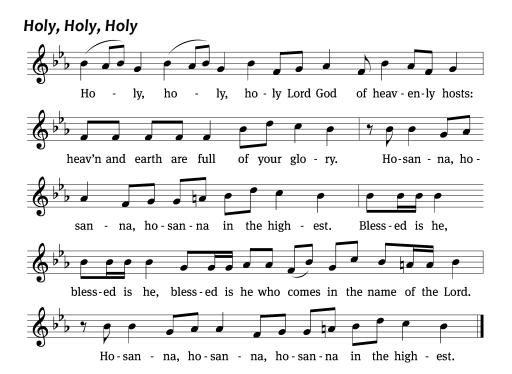
M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



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.

O Christ, Lamb of God



Be seated.



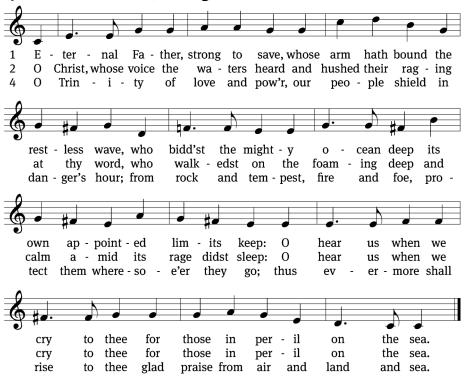
Communion Distribution

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. Glutenfree 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.



CW 805 sts. 1-2, 4



Please stand at the pastor's direction.

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

Closing Prayer & Blessing

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

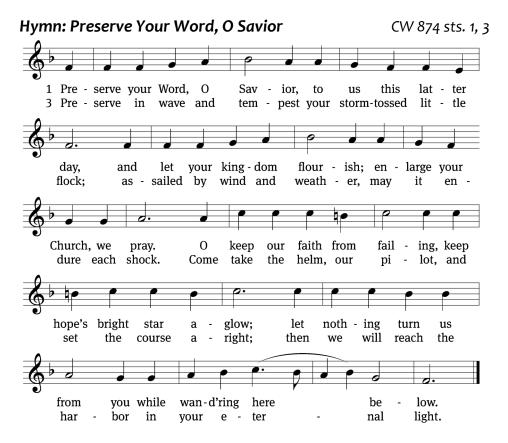
Blessing

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.



Silent Prayer and Announcements

Acknowledgments

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Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy fellowship in the entry. Adult Bible study begins at 10:15 in the fellowship hall downstairs.

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: The Living Lord completely changes our view of death Bible Readings: Lam. 3:22-23, 25-32, 2 Cor. 4:7-15, Mark 5:21-24a, 35-43

Hymns: 846, 831, 835

PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

(Also printed in the hymnal)

- Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?
- A: He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.
- Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?
- A: I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?
- Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?
- A: I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.
- Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?
- A: His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.
- Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?
- A: In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.
- Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?
- A: I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."
- Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?
- A: I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.

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:

- ö Restrooms with diaper-changing tables are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance.
- ö 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.
- ö You will find a connection card in your pew. Please share names, contact information, and prayer requests.
- ö 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.
- ö 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:

- ö 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.
- ö If your child needs a quiet space, you can use the fireside room down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is streamed live into the room.
- ö Children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for the weekly 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.

