

top-down FAITH

THE LIVING LORD
COMPLETELY CHANGES
OUR VIEW OF DEATH



14940 62nd St. N—Stillwater, MN 55082
www.salemlutheran.org
church@salemlutheran.org | 651-439-7831

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: Savior Jesus, we thank you for your blessings in another week. Forgive us for our sins and bless us today in our worship. Send your Spirit that we might praise you here and in the week ahead. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: Most people fear death to some degree. Some fear death because they assume it is the end. Others fear death because they assume it isn't the end at all, but that there will be some sort of reckoning after death that they don't want to face. Perhaps it is understandable then that others would fear death, but believers know by God's promise that death has no lasting claim on us. For God's children death is not discipline but deliverance. Believers understand that death does not cut us down, but only raises us up. With this top-down faith from God we know that Jesus will wake us from death as easily as if he were waking us from an afternoon nap.

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.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Worship Leader: Guest Pastor Jon Enter
Organ: Robyn Stoller
Flautist: Rachel Collins

Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting One



Hymn: I Know of a Sleep in Jesus' Name

CW 846



1 I know of a sleep in Je - sus' name, a rest from all
2 I know of a morn - ing, bright and fair when ti - dings of
3 God's Son to our graves then makes his way; his voice hear all
4 O Je - sus, draw near my dy - ing bed and take me in -



toil and sor - row; earth folds in her arms my wea - ry frame
joy shall wake us, when songs from on high shall fill the air
tribes and na - tions. The trum - pet of God will sound the day
to your keep - ing and say when my spir - it hence is fled,



and shel - ters it till the mor - row. My soul is at
and God to his glo - ry take us, when Je - sus shall
and shake all the earth's foun - da - tions. He calls out a -
"This child is not dead, but sleep - ing." And leave me not,



home with God in heav'n; my sor - rows are past and o - ver.
bid us rise from sleep; how joy - ous that hour of wak - ing!
loud, "O dead, come forth!" In glo - ry we rise to meet him.
Sav - ior, till I rise to praise you in life e - ter - nal.

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: If we claim to be without sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. *(1 John 1:8-9)*

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**C: Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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.

God of all power and might, you are the giver of all that is good. Help us love you with all our heart, strengthen us in true faith, provide us with all we need, and keep us safe in your care; 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

Lamentations 3:22-33

God's people were suffering, but the prophet Jeremiah knew that suffering and impending death can focus our attention on what matters: the LORD's compassion and salvation.

²²Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.

²³They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

²⁴I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him."

²⁵The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him,
to the one who seeks him;

²⁶it is good to wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.

²⁷It is good for a man to bear the yoke
while he is young.

²⁸Let him sit alone in silence,
for the LORD has laid it on him.

²⁹Let him bury his face in the dust—
there may yet be hope.

³⁰Let him offer his cheek to one who would strike him,
and let him be filled with disgrace.

³¹For no one is cast off
by the Lord forever.

³²Though he brings grief, he will show compassion,
so great is his unfailing love.

³³For he does not willingly bring affliction
or grief to anyone.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm of the Day: I Will Praise You, LORD

Psalm 30B

Refrain



I will exalt you, LORD, for you lifted me out / of the depths;
you spared me from going down / to the pit.

Sing the praises of the LORD, you his faithful / people;
praise his / holy name.

For his anger lasts only a / moment,
but his favor lasts a / lifetime;
weeping may stay / for the night,
but rejoicing comes in the / morning. *Refrain*

To you, / LORD, I called;
to the Lord I cried for / mercy:
“Hear, LORD, and be merci- / ful to me;
LORD, / be my help.”

You turned my wailing into / dancing;
you removed my sackcloth and clothed / me with joy,
that my heart may sing your praises and not be / silent.
LORD my God, I will praise you for- / ever.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 4:7-15

St. Paul knew that serving Christ might result in death. But he also knew the one who raised Jesus from the dead will also raise us.

⁷But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. ⁸We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. ¹⁰We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. ¹¹For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. ¹²So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

¹³It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, ¹⁴because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. ¹⁵All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel

Mark 5:21-24a, 35-43

Jesus raises the young daughter of a synagogue leader from the dead as easily as you would wake a sleeping twelve-year old from a nap.

²¹When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. ²²Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. ²³He pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." ²⁴So Jesus went with him.

³⁵While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher anymore?"

³⁶Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, "Don't be afraid; just believe."

³⁷He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. ³⁸When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. ³⁹He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." ⁴⁰But they laughed at him.

After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which means "Little girl, I say to you, get up!").

⁴²Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. ⁴³He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Children's Devotion

Hymn: Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me

CW 831



1 Why should cross and tri - al grieve me? Christ is near
2 When life's trou - bles rise to meet me, though their weight
3 God gives me my days of glad - ness, and I will
4 From God's joy can noth - ing sev - er, for I am
5 Since I know God nev - er fails me, in his voice



with his cheer; nev - er will he leave me.
may be great, they will not de - feat me.
trust him still when he sends me sad - ness.
his dear lamb, he, my Shep - herd ev - er.
I'll re - joice when grim death as - sails me.



Who can rob me of the heav - en that God's Son
God, my lov - ing Sav - ior, sees them; he who knows
God is good; his love at - tends me day by day,
I am his be - cause he gave me his own blood
Trust - ing in my Sav - ior's mer - it, safe at last,



for me won when his life was giv - en?
all my woes knows how best to end them.
come what may, guides me and de - fends me.
for my good, by his death to save me.
trou - bles past, I shall heav'n in - her - it.

Sermon

Based on Mark 5:21-24a, 35-43

"Laughable Faith"

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



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.



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.

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: Precious Lord, Take My Hand

CW 835

Due to copyright restrictions we are not allowed to print this hymn on paper or digitally. Please find the hymn in the blue hymnal in your pew on page 835.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy fellowship in the entry between services. Adult Bible study begins at 10:15 in the church sanctuary.

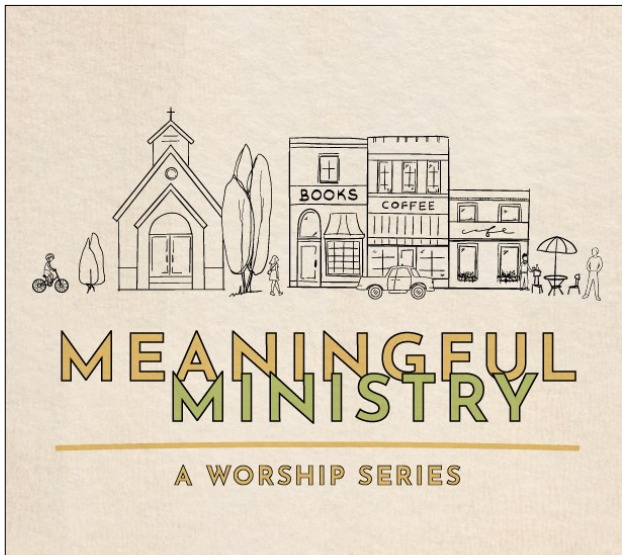
For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Meaningful Ministry

Bible Readings: Ezekial 2:1-7, 1 Timothy 2:1-13, Mark 6:1-6

Hymns: 895, 639, 900, 774

Next Worship Series:



“Ministry” is one of those churchy words that is often used, yet perhaps not fully understood. Ministry comes from the Latin word for “service.” Ministry involves serving others with love, compassion, and empathy. Helping someone with physical needs is sometimes called “compassion ministry.” Helping someone with their spiritual needs, sharing the good news of Christ, is generally called “gospel ministry.”

We misunderstand ministry if we think of it as something only ministers do. While pastors are called to perform gospel ministry on behalf of others, ultimately every believer is called by God to reflect Christ-like love and share the message of salvation as God provides those opportunities.

In this worship series we will see our efforts to meet the needs of those God brings into our sphere of influence as meaningful ministry. In our service to them, those people see God’s love and God sees our faith. Our worship follows this pattern.

Watch for the intro video on our social media this week and in worship next week-end.

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 make a donation 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 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.
- ✦ 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.**

