

April 17, 2025



*Holy Thursday*

HOLY WEEK



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Holy Thursday

## **Holy Thursday**

*Dead and Buried:  
A New Covenant Buries an Old Contract*

**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:** Loving Savior, you come to us in Word and Sacrament to comfort us with the assurance of forgiveness and life. Bless us as we worship you this Holy Week. Amen.

**THEME OF THE DAY:** God's Old Covenant with Israel was a two-sided contract - if the people followed God's commands he would bless and keep them as his own. Sin destroyed the Old Covenant. Instead God promised a New Covenant, in which he forgives our sins entirely out of his love and mercy. The Old Covenant always leaves us starving in our relationship with God. The New Covenant of forgiveness satisfies the deepest hunger of our soul. This is precisely why Jesus connected this new covenant with a special meal in the Upper Room. To an uninformed outsider, the Lord's Supper looks like a poor snack—a bite of bread and sip of wine. But the followers of Christ understand that this holy food provides all the blessings of the new covenant.

**WORSHIP SERIES:** We have come to the final stretch of Lent, known as "Holy Week." For centuries, believers have set aside this entire week for special observance. In Holy Week, we see the impossible. The Son of God dies. The Lord of life enters the last place he belonged—the grave. But what we will see this week is that, when Jesus entered the tomb, he did not go alone. He buried all our baggage with him: sin, guilt, shame, condemnation, fear. Jesus will walk out of the tomb. But thanks to him, those things will all stay dead and buried.

**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:***

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Choir Director: Luke Dorn

Piano: Madison Boerner

Musicians: Chloe & Lydia Wolfe

# Order of Worship



## Hymn: *It Was a Dark and Dismal Night*

CW 417



1 It was a dark and dis - mal night when pow'rs of  
2 Be - fore the mourn - ful scene be - gan, he took the  
3 "This is my bod - y, slain for sin; re - ceive and  
4 "Do this," he said, "till time shall end, in mem - 'ry  
5 Je - sus, your feast we cel - e - brate; we show your



earth and hell a - rose a - gainst the Son, our  
bread and blessed and broke. What love through all his  
eat the liv - ing food." Then took the cup and  
of your dy - ing friend; meet at my ta - ble  
death; we sing your name till you re - turn and



God's de - light, and friends be - trayed him to his foes.  
ac - tions ran! What won - drous words of grace he spoke!  
blessed the wine: "This is my all - a - ton - ing blood."  
and re - cord the love of your de - part - ed Lord."  
we shall eat the mar - riage sup - per of the Lamb.

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard again how our Lord walked the path of suffering which led him to the cross for our salvation. We have also heard our Lord's call to intensify our struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and one another. This is the struggle to which we were committed at Baptism; God's forgiveness and the power of his Spirit to amend our lives continue with us because of his love for us in Jesus our Savior.

Within the family of the Church, God never wearies of giving peace and new life. In the absolution, we receive forgiveness as from God himself. This absolution we should not doubt but firmly believe that our sins are thus forgiven before God in heaven, for it comes to us in the name and by the command of our Lord.

We who receive God's love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other, as Jesus became our servant.

In Holy Communion, first instituted this night, the members of Christ's body participate most intimately in his love. Remembering our Lord's Last Supper with his disciples, we eat the bread and drink the cup of this meal. Together we receive the Lord's gift of his body and blood for forgiveness and participate in that new covenant that makes us one with him and one another. The Lord's Supper is the promise of the great banquet we will share with all the faithful when our Lord returns, the joyous culmination of our reconciliation with God and each other.

As we begin the solemn celebration of our Lord's passion, let us confess our sins to him, receive his absolution, and be reconciled to God and each other in Christian love.

**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  $\dagger$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**M:** Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us, has reconciled us to God, and has promised us the power to forgive and love one another. Relying on his promise, therefore, be reconciled with one another.

**C: Brothers and sisters, may the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, in our words, and in our actions.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

**M:** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, you give us your true body and blood as a remembrance of your suffering and death on a cross.

Grant us so firmly to believe your words and promise that we may always partake of this sacrament to our eternal good; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

## **First Reading**

*Jeremiah 31:31-34*

*The Old Covenant could only modify behavior.*

*The New Covenant transforms people's hearts and minds.*

<sup>31</sup>"The days are coming," declares the LORD,

"when I will make a new covenant  
with the people of Israel  
and with the people of Judah.

<sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant  
I made with their ancestors  
when I took them by the hand  
to lead them out of Egypt,  
because they broke my covenant,  
though I was a husband to them,"  
declares the LORD.

<sup>33</sup>"This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel  
after that time," declares the LORD.

"I will put my law in their minds  
and write it on their hearts.

I will be their God,  
and they will be my people.

<sup>34</sup>No longer will they teach their neighbor,  
or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,'  
because they will all know me,  
from the least of them to the greatest,"  
declares the LORD.

"For I will forgive their wickedness  
and will remember their sins no more."

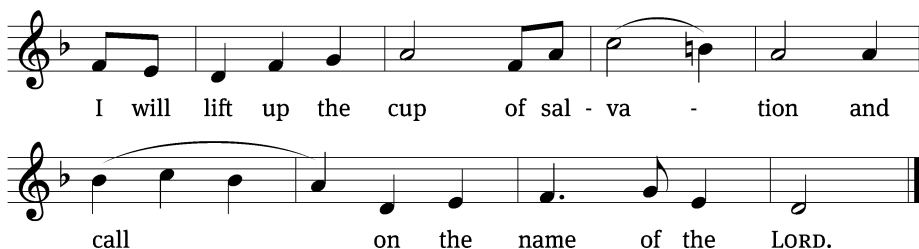
**M:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

# Psalm of the Day: I Will Lift Up the Cup of Salvation

Psalm 116A

## Refrain



## Tone



I love the LORD, for he / heard my voice;

he heard my cry for / mercy.

Because he turned his / ear to me,

I will call on him as long / as I live.

For you, LORD, have delivered / me from death,

my eyes from tears, my feet from / stumbling,

that I may walk be- / fore the LORD

in the land of the / living. **Refrain**

What shall I return / to the LORD

for all his good- / ness to me?

I will lift up the cup of sal- / vation

and call on the name / of the LORD.

**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

Hebrews 10:15-25

*Since the New Covenant perfectly satisfies our spiritual hunger,  
it enables us to confidently draw near to God.*

<sup>15</sup>The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says:

<sup>16</sup>“This is the covenant I will make with them  
after that time, says the Lord.

I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.”

<sup>17</sup>Then he adds:

“Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.”

<sup>18</sup>And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, <sup>21</sup>and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup>Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

<sup>24</sup>And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup>not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Choir Anthem: Come to the Table**

By Jayne R. Nitz

*Come to the table, where Jesus said to come  
On the night he was abandoned, denied, and betrayed.  
He invited his disciples and for us he does the same:  
This is my body, this is my blood given to forgive the sins of ev'ryone.  
Take and eat the bread; take and drink the wine.  
Do this in remembrance of me.*

*Come to the table, where Jesus said to come.  
Overwhelmed by my offenses and the guilt that I feel,  
I will welcome the assurance Jesus offers in this meal:  
This is my body, this is my blood given to forgive the sins of ev'ryone.  
Take and eat the bread; take and drink the wine.  
Do this in remembrance of me.*

*Come to the table, where Jesus said to come.  
When my earthly life is over, I'll kneel at his throne,  
And we'll eat and drink together in our everlasting home.  
This is my body, this is my blood given to forgive the sins of ev'ryone.  
Take and eat the bread; take and drink the wine.  
Do this in remembrance of me.*

Please stand.

## Gospel Acclamation

1 Corinthians 11:26



### Refrain



Glo - ry, praise, and hon - or to you, Lord Je - sus Christ.

Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup,  
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **Refrain**

## Gospel

Luke 22:7-20

*Jesus institutes the meal of the New Covenant. In this sacrament his body and blood are the food and drink that satisfy our every spiritual need.*

<sup>7</sup>Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. <sup>8</sup>Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."

<sup>9</sup>"Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked.

<sup>10</sup>He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, <sup>11</sup>and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' <sup>12</sup>He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there."

<sup>13</sup>They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

<sup>14</sup>When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. <sup>15</sup>And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. <sup>16</sup>For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God."

<sup>17</sup>After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. <sup>18</sup>For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

<sup>19</sup>And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

<sup>20</sup>In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated.*



## Hymn: Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior

CW 659 sts. 1-2, 4, 6-7



1 Je - sus Christ, our bless - ed Sav - ior, turned a - way God's  
2 As his pledge of love un - dy - ing, he, this pre - cious  
4 Use - less would be Je - sus' pas - sion if sal - va - tion  
6 Then hold fast with faith un - shak - en that this food is  
7 Praise the Fa - ther, who from heav - en un - to us such



wrath for - ev - er; by his bit - ter grief and woe  
food sup - ply - ing, gives his bod - y with the bread  
you could fash - ion. Do not come if you sup - pose  
to be tak - en by the souls who are dis - tressed,  
food has giv - en and, to mend what we have done,



he saved us from the e - vil foe.  
and with the wine the blood he shed.  
you need not him who died and rose.  
by hearts that long for peace and rest.  
gave in - to death his on - ly Son.

## Sermon Text

Based on Psalm 51:10-13

- <sup>10</sup> Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.  
<sup>11</sup> Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.  
<sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.  
<sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.

*"Renewed Through the Gospel"*

## 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.

## 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.*

### Confession: The Institution of the Lord's Supper

M: *First: What is the Sacrament of Holy Communion?*

C: It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ for us Christians to eat and to drink.

### Confession: The Blessings of the Lord's Supper

M: *Second: What blessing do we receive through this eating and drinking?*

C: That is shown us by these words: "Given" and "poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins." Through these words we receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation in this sacrament. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

### Confession: The Power of the Lord's Supper

M: *Third: How can eating and drinking do such great things?*

C: It is certainly not the eating and drinking that does such things, but the words "Given" and "poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words are the main thing in this sacrament, along with the eating and drinking. And whoever believes these words has what they plainly say, the forgiveness of sins.

### Confession: The Reception of the Lord's Supper

M: *Fourth: Who, then, is properly prepared to receive this sacrament?*

C: Fasting and other outward preparations may serve a good purpose, but he is properly prepared who believes these words: "Given" and "poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins." But whoever does not believe these words or doubts them is not prepared, because the words "for you" require nothing but hearts that believe.

## 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

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. A - men.

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. 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.*

# Hymn: With All My Heart I Praise You, Lord

CW 658



1 With all my heart I praise you, Lord, that in your  
2 When I con - fess my sin and shame, peace and for -  
3 Lord, I re - joice to be your guest, at your rich



Son you saved me. You saw in me what you de - plored;  
give - ness seek - ing, you grant me par - don in your name  
ta - ble feed - ing, there, by your mer - cy, find - ing rest



my griev - ous sin en - slaved me. Yet, Lord, you paid  
be - fore I've fin - ished speak - ing! In love you lis -  
and all my soul is need - ing. Let your good Spir -



the high - est price, Je - sus' a - ton - ing sac - ri - fice,  
ten care - ful - ly to all our sighs of mis - er - y,  
it work with - in to show that all my wretch - ed sin



that you might ev - er own me. Were I to bless  
our ev - 'ry need ad - dress - ing. Our guilt should make  
has tru - ly been for - giv - en. Thus, well pre - pared,



you all my days, it would be in - suf - fi - cient praise  
you turn a - way; in - stead you turn toward us and say:  
Lord, I be - lieve that in your sup - per I re - ceive



for kind - ness you have shown me.  
"Re - ceive my gra - cious bless - ing."  
life, par - don, peace, and heav - en.

# Hymn: Draw Near

CW 662



Draw near, draw near! Take the bod - y of your Lord.



Draw near, draw near! Drink the blood for you out-poured!



- 1 Draw near and take the bod - y of your Lord,
- 2 Christ our Re - deem - er, God's e - ter - nal Son,
- 3 Let us ap - proach with faith - ful hearts sin - cere
- 4 With heav'n - ly bread he makes the hun - gry whole,



and drink the ho - ly blood for you out-poured.  
has by his cross and blood the vic - t'ry won.  
and take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.  
gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.



Saved by his bod - y and his ho - ly blood,  
He gave his life for great - est and for least,  
Christ, who in this life all the saints de - fends,  
Lord of the na - tions, to whom all must bow,



with souls re - freshed we give our thanks to God.  
him - self the of - f'ring and him - self the priest.  
gives all be - liev - ers life that nev - er ends.  
in this great feast of love be with us now.

## 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*

## Prayer

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 in you 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.

## Stripping of the Altar

*While Pastor reads Psalm 88, the altar is solemnly stripped in remembrance of the Lord's abandonment by his disciples and in preparation for Good Friday.*

**Candles extinguished** — Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” The events of Good Friday snuffed out the human life of Jesus, the Light of the world. As even creation was dark when he suffered, so we extinguish our candles.

**Altar book removed** — The Altar Book and hymnal guides our worship together as we hear his Word and respond with prayer and songs of praise. As Jesus suffers these normally joyful sounds grow quiet.

**Communion vessels removed** — Jesus offered his body and blood as the payment for our sins. They have been given to us in, with and under the form of bread and wine in this Holy Supper. As he was removed from us in the grave, so we remove the elements and vessels of this Sacrament.

**Paraments removed** — Paraments are the cloths that cover our altar and display symbols of our God and salvation. Purple, the color of Lent, also points to the purple robe Jesus wore as the soldiers mocked him. As Jesus was stripped of the purple robe, and of his dignity, so we remove the paraments from the altar.

***After the completion of the psalm, there is no blessing. These services of Jesus' Passion flow together as one event until Easter, continuing next with our observance of Good Friday. The church is dark. The congregation leaves the sanctuary in silence.***

## Acknowledgments

Setting Four from Christian Worship

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## **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:

- ✦ 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, we have a nursing space down the hall past the church office.
- ✦ 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**

