



**The Door is Very  
Narrow**



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[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. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:** Heavenly Father, turn me aside from any thoughts of pride or self-righteousness. Lead me to look to Christ alone for forgiveness, for he is the only way to an eternity with you in heaven. Amen.

**THEME OF THE DAY:** Today Jesus answers the question all people should be asking. "How might I be saved?" Jesus explains there is only one way—entering through a very narrow door. Jesus' words cut deep! He tells us it is easy to develop a false sense of security based on some superficial familiarity we have with "spiritual" things. But Jesus warns that many who think they are on the path to heaven will end up shut out. These wounding words of Jesus provide healing, pushing us toward that narrow door: faith and trust in him alone.

**WORSHIP SERIES:** No one likes pain, but not all pain is bad. A surgeon cuts through skin and muscle, not to harm but to heal. Words can bring us pain, but sometimes those painful words lead us to the very healing we need. In Luke 13-17 we find Jesus teaching the faithful as he travels to Jerusalem for the last time. He knows he is going to die. So, with a sense of urgency, Jesus shares truths we need to hear, even though it hurts to hear them. In this series we might not like everything that Jesus says. Yet, difficult as it may be to hear, we listen because when Jesus speaks words that wound us, his intent is to heal our very soul.

**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

Organ/Piano: Luke Dorn

# Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting Four



## Hymn: Today Your Mercy Calls Us

CW 916 sts. 1-3



1 To - day your mer - cy calls us to wash a - way our sin.  
2 To - day your gate is o - pen, and all who en - ter in  
3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us, his Ho - ly Spir - it waits;



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, what - ev - er we have been,  
shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come and par - don for their sin.  
his bless - ed an - gels gath - er a - round the heav'n - ly gates.



how - ev - er long from mer - cy our hearts have turned a - way,  
The past shall be for - got - ten, a pres - ent joy be giv'n,  
No ques - tion will be asked us how of - ten we have come;



your pre - cious blood can wash us and make us clean to - day.  
a fu - ture grace be prom - ised, a glo - rious crown in heav'n.  
al - though we oft have wan - dered, it is our Fa - ther's home.

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: "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created." (James 1:17-18) In truth, then, let us examine our hearts and come to him in repentance for those times we've failed to recognize his gifts or honor him as the Giver.

**C:** Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.  
 For faithless worrying and selfish pride,  
 For sins of habit and sins of choice,  
 For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,  
 You should cast me away from your presence forever.  
**O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

**M:** Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

**M:** I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live;

**C:** May our meditation be pleasing to him as we rejoice in the Lord. Amen.

## HYMN: Today Your Mercy Calls Us

CW 916 st. 4

4 O all-em-bracing Mer-cy, O ever-open Door,  
 what should we do with-out you when heart and eye run o'er?  
 When all things seem a-gainst us, to drive us to de-spair,  
 we know one gate is o-pen, one ear will hear our prayer.

## THE WORD OF GOD

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

**C:** And also with you.

## Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; 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

Isaiah 66:18-24

*Many who seem closest to God's saving acts will reject them and perish. Meanwhile, many who seemed far from the kingdom will hear of God's grace, believe, and be saved.*

<sup>18</sup>"And I, because of what they have planned and done, am about to come and gather the people of all nations and languages, and they will come and see my glory.

<sup>19</sup>"I will set a sign among them, and I will send some of those who survive to the nations—to Tarshish, to the Libyans and Lydians (famous as archers), to Tubal and Greece, and to the distant islands that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory among the nations. <sup>20</sup>And they will bring all your people, from all the nations, to my holy mountain in Jerusalem as an offering to the LORD—on horses, in chariots and wagons, and on mules and camels," says the LORD. "They will bring them, as the Israelites bring their grain offerings, to the temple of the LORD in ceremonially clean vessels.

<sup>21</sup>And I will select some of them also to be priests and Levites," says the LORD.

<sup>22</sup>"As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me," declares the LORD, "so will your name and descendants endure. <sup>23</sup>From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all mankind will come and bow down before me," says the LORD. <sup>24</sup>"And they will go out and look on the dead bodies of those who rebelled against me; the worms that eat them will not die, the fire that burns them will not be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind."

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

Hebrews 12:18-24

*Entering the narrow door into eternal life has nothing to do with keeping the Law of Moses. It has everything to do with Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant, who paid for our sin with his blood.*

<sup>18</sup>You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; <sup>19</sup>to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, <sup>20</sup>because they could not bear what was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death." <sup>21</sup>The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, "I am trembling with fear."

<sup>22</sup>But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, <sup>23</sup>to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup>to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gospel Acclamation

Luke 13:29



*Refrain*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

People will come from east and west and north and south,  
and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. **Refrain**

## Gospel

Luke 13:22-30

*Jesus urges, "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door."*

<sup>22</sup>Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. <sup>23</sup>Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?"

He said to them, <sup>24</sup>"Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. <sup>25</sup>Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.'

"But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.'

<sup>26</sup>"Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.'

<sup>27</sup>"But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!'

<sup>28</sup>"There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. <sup>29</sup>People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. <sup>30</sup>Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last."

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated.*

## Children's Devotion

### Seek Where You May to Find a Way

CW 698 sts. 1-3



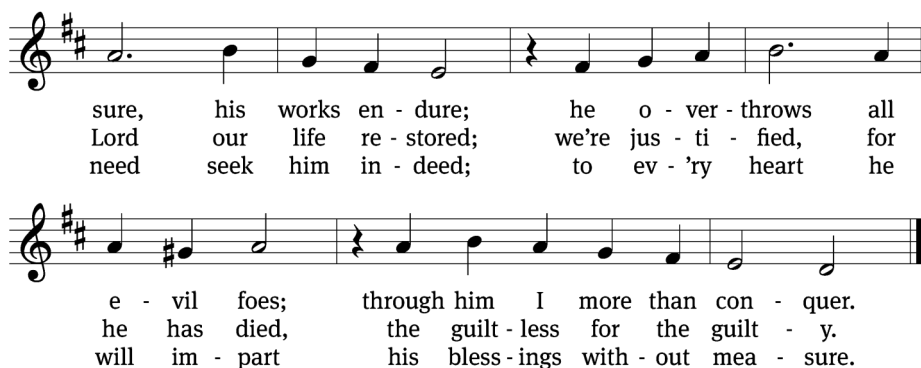
1	Seek where you may	to find a way	that leads to
2	Seek whom you may	to be your stay,	none can re -
3	Seek him a - lone	who did a - tone,	who did your



your sal - va - tion.	My heart is stilled,	on Christ I build,
deem an - oth - er.	All help - ers failed;	this man pre - vailed,
souls de - liv - er.	O seek him first,	all you who thirst



he is the one foun - da - tion.	His Word is
the God - man, Christ our broth - er.	This Ser - vant -
for grace that fails you nev - er.	In ev - 'ry



## Sermon

Based on Luke 13:22-30

*“A Wound that Heals: The Door is Narrow”*

*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 Scrip-  
 tures. 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 wor-  
 shipped 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.



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:

## Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might.

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -

na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -

na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

## 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

The musical score is written on ten staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "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. A - men." The score ends with a double bar line.

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. 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.*

*If this is your first time communing with us, see the announcement on the inside cover.*

## Distribution Hymn: I Lay My Sins on Jesus

CW 798



1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, the spot - less Lamb of God;  
2 I lay my wants on Je - sus, all full - ness dwells in him;  
3 I rest my soul on Je - sus, this wea - ry soul of mine;  
4 I long to be like Je - sus, meek, lov - ing, low - ly, mild;



he bears them all and frees us from the ac - curs - ed load.  
he heals all my dis - eas - es, my soul he does re - deem.  
his right hand me em - brac - es, I in his arms re - cline.  
I long to be like Je - sus, the Fa - ther's ho - ly child.



I bring my guilt to Je - sus to wash my crim - son stains  
I lay my griefs on Je - sus, my bur - dens and my cares;  
I love the name of Je - sus, Im - man - uel, Christ, the Lord;  
I long to be with Je - sus a - mid the heav'n - ly throng,



white in his blood most pre - cious till not a spot re - mains.  
he from them all re - leas - es, he all my sor - rows shares.  
like fra - grance on the breez - es his name a - broad is poured.  
to sing with saints his prais - es, to learn the an - gels' song.

*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.**

*Psalms 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

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.

*Be seated.*

## Closing : Seek Where You May to Find a Way

CW 698 st. 4

4 My heart's de - light, my crown most bright, O Christ, you  
are for - ev - er. Not wealth or pride or for-tune's tide  
our bond of love shall sev - er. You are my  
Lord; your pre - cious Word shall light my way each  
daunt - ing day. O teach me, Lord, to trust you!

## Silent Prayer and Announcements

### Acknowledgments

Setting Four from Christian Worship

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### Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

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

### For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Wounds that Heal: Those Who Exalt Themselves Will Be Humbled

Bible Readings: Proverbs 25:6-7a; James 2:1-13; Luke 14:7-14

Hymns: 737, 729, 690, 766



# Upcoming Events

## **Fall Schedule Returns**

### **Ministry Fair, Mission Festival, and Sunday JAM!**

On Sunday, September 7th Salem returns to our regular worship schedule, with services at 8 and 10:30 am. On that day we will once again hold a Ministry Fair to highlight various ways that members serve in our church, and give you a chance to find where you can serve the Lord with us. Plan to spend a little time to get to know your fellow members and meet those who help lead our church!

On September 14th we welcome Pastor Joel Naumann as our Mission Festival speaker. Between services on Sunday he'll speak about the blessings and challenges of campus ministry where he serves in Eau Claire, WI and elsewhere around the country. All are welcome to enjoy a meal together after the late service.

On September 21st, our regular Bible studies and Sunday JAM resume, beginning at 9:15 am. Teens & adults will be together to start the year as we talk about sharing our faith in a study by both pastors titled "One by One." (Later in the fall teens and adults will meet separately.) Sunday JAM for children ages 3 years old to 6th grade will start at the same time in the school kindergarten room. We hope you'll grow with us in faith this year, no matter your age.

## **PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION**

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 I have sinned against God and deserve punishment, what will 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** are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance. Both men's and women's restrooms are equipped with **diaper changing tables** for your convenience.
- † Our sanctuary is equipped with an amplified "loop" system for **hearing assistance**. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position.
- † You will find a **connection card** in your pew. We ask members and guests to share their names and contact info, and invite you to share requests for contact or prayers.
- † 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.

## **FOR THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN**

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing and pray and grow with us in our services. Please note these special worship aids and helps for families:

- † Children's bulletins & "*quiet bags*" for your child's use in worship 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 to be nursed or quieted for a few moments you can use our "*cry room*" down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is shown live on a TV in the room.
- † Sunday mornings, before the hymn of the day and sermon, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for a short devotion on God's Word. Parents may accompany their children as they wish.

**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.**

