

**Count the Cost**



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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:** Loving Father, you come to us through Word and Sacrament to renew our hearts in faith and hope. Thank you for your blessings in the past week and be with us in the next. Fill our hearts with praise as we gather together today in worship. Amen.

**THEME OF THE DAY:** This week Jesus' sharp words expose our desire to pursue comfort and avoid pain. Jesus explains that following him will be hard. Jesus promises that discipleship comes with crosses. He tells us that we must count the cost of following him. Jesus wants us to do that now, rather than waiting until we are in the heat of the moment and emotions are running high. Our calculations, though, not only consider what we might give up for Jesus but what we gain through him! When we remember the infinite blessings we have in Christ, the path we follow, while difficult, will be clear. Whatever is lost as we follow Jesus pales in comparison to what we gain.

**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.

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

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe  
Organ/Piano: Luke Dorn

# Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting Four



## Hymn: Speak, O Savior, I Am Listening

CW 631 sts. 1-3



1 Speak, O Sav - ior, I am lis - t'ning, as a ser - vant  
2 Oh, what bless - ing to be near you and to lis - ten  
3 Lord, your words are wa - ters liv - ing where I quench my



to his lord. Let me show re - spect and hon - or  
to your voice; let me ev - er love and fear you,  
thirst - y needs. Lord, your words are bread life - giv - ing;



to your ho - ly, pre - cious Word, that each day, my whole life  
let your Word still be my choice! Man - y hard - ened sin - ners,  
on your words my spir - it feeds. Lord, your words will be my



through, I may serve and fol - low you. Let your Word e'er  
Lord, flee in ter - ror at your Word; but to all who  
light thro' death's cold and drear - y night; yes, they are my



be my plea - sure and my heart's most pre - cious trea - sure.  
feel sin's bur - den you give peace and words of par - don.  
sword pre - vail - ing and my cup of joy un - fail - ing.

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: Speak, O Savior, I Am Listening***

CW 631 st. 4

4 As I pray, dear Je - sus, hear me; let your words in  
me take root. May your Spir - it e'er be near me  
that I bear a - bun - dant fruit. May I dai - ly sing your  
praise, from my heart glad an - thems raise, till my high - est  
praise is giv - en in the end - less joy of heav - en.

## **THE WORD OF GOD**

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

**C: And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

O merciful Lord, you did not spare your only Son but delivered him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*Be seated.*

## First Reading

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

*Prior to settling within the Promised Land, the Lord wants his people to calculate carefully the choice between life and death.*

<sup>15</sup>See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction.

<sup>16</sup>For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

<sup>17</sup>But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, <sup>18</sup>I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

<sup>19</sup>This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live <sup>20</sup>and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

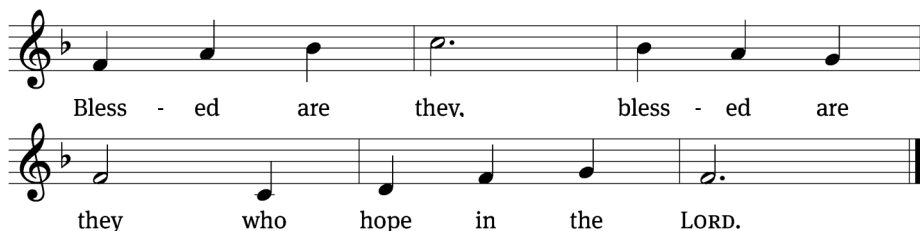
M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

## Psalm of the Day: Blessed Are They

Psalm 1A

*Refrain*



## Tone



Blessed is the one who / does not walk  
in step with the / wicked  
or stand in the way that / sinners take  
or sit in the company of / mockers,  
but whose delight is in the law / of the LORD,  
and who meditates on his law / day and night.  
That person is like a tree planted by streams of / water,  
which yields its fruit in / season  
and whose leaf does not / wither—  
whatever they do / prospers. **Refrain**

Not so the / wicked!  
They are like chaff that the wind / blows away.  
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the / judgment,  
nor sinners in the assembly of the / righteous. **Refrain**

For the LORD watches over the way of the / righteous,  
but the way of the wicked leads to de- / struction.

**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

Philemon 1:7-21

*The case of the escaped slave, Onesimus, returning to his owner Philemon, is a perfect example of the cost in following Jesus. Paul encourages Philemon to free Onesimus and embrace him as a brother.*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,  
To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker—

<sup>7</sup>Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

<sup>8</sup>Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, <sup>9</sup>yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus—<sup>10</sup>that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains.

<sup>11</sup>Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

<sup>12</sup>I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. <sup>13</sup>I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. <sup>14</sup>But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary.

<sup>15</sup>Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever— <sup>16</sup>no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup>So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me.

<sup>18</sup>If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. <sup>19</sup>I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. <sup>20</sup>I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup>Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gospel Acclamation

John 6:68



*Refrain*



Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. **Refrain**

## Gospel

Luke 14:25-35

*Jesus teaches us that following him closely will come at a cost.*

<sup>25</sup>Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: <sup>26</sup>“If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup>And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

<sup>28</sup>“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? <sup>29</sup>For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, <sup>30</sup>saying, ‘This person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’

<sup>31</sup>“Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup>If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup>In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

<sup>34</sup>“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? <sup>35</sup>It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.

“Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated.*

## Children’s Devotion

### Hymn of the Day: *Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken* CW 694 sts. 1–2, 4



1 Je - sus, I my cross have tak - en, all to leave and  
 2 Let the world de - spise and leave me; they have left my  
 4 Haste, my soul, from grace to glo - ry, armed by faith and

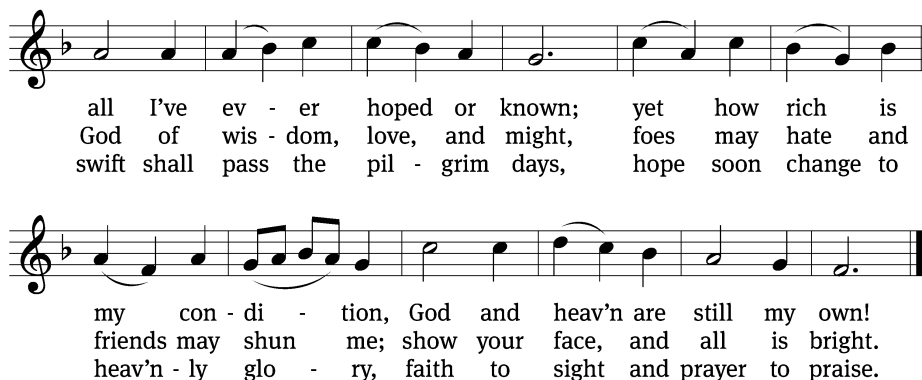


fol - low you; des - ti - tute, de-spised, for - sak - en, you on  
 Sav - ior, too. Hu - man hearts and looks de - ceive me; you are  
 winged by prayer; all but heav’n is tran - si - to - ry, God’s own



earth once suf - fered, too. Per - ish ev - ’ry fond am - bi - tion,  
 not, like them, un - true. And, since you have smiled up - on me,  
 hand shall guide you there. Soon shall end this earth - ly sto - ry,





## Sermon

Based on Luke 14:25-35

*"Look Before You Leap!"*

*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



Connect Card

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 welcome card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



Give Online

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.

### Hymn: Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me?

CW 831 sts. 1-3

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

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.

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,

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.

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.

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: Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

CW 617

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all  
creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## Silent Prayer and Announcements

## Monthly WELS Connection Video

### Acknowledgments

Setting Four from Christian Worship

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### Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

All are invited to enjoy refreshments and fellowship after worship. Today various service and social groups of our church have displays set up in the entry to let others see how God is working among us, and to give you a chance to join in the work.

### For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Mission Festival—The Found are Left, the Lost are Found

Bible Readings: Jonah 3:10-4:11; 2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Luke 15:1-10

Hymns: 706, 654, 550, 814, 654

# 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 blue welcome 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**

