

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27-28, 2025



What Helps in Life Fails in Death



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www.salemlutheran.org

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, thank you for bringing me once again to this house of peace and rest. Bless me through your word and fill my heart with joyful praise at the good news of forgiveness. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: All of the wealthiest people in history have one thing in common. They couldn't take their wealth with them when they died. Money may help us achieve some objectives in life but it always fails to prevent death. Jesus speaks some sharp words this week, warning that those who live with hearts filled with love for money and void of love for God will receive the only eternity that money can buy—one void of God and filled with torment. The world scoffs at those who forego earthly blessing for heavenly treasure but we know that God promises the best things money cannot buy.

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 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: Jon Enter

Piano: Madison Boerner

Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting Four



Hymn: *Though Thoughtless Thousands Choose the Road* CW 718



1 Though thought-less thou-sands choose the road that leads the
2 In Christ, by faith, I wish to live, from him my
3 Christ is my ev-er-last-ing all, to him I
5 Soon will the saints in glo-ry meet, soon walk through



soul a-way from God, this hap-pi-ness, dear
life, my all, re-ceive, to him de-vote, my
look, on him I call; he will my ev-'ry
ev-'ry gold-en street and sing on ev-'ry



Lord, be mine: to live and die en-tire-ly thine.
fleet-ing hours, serve him a-lone with all my pow'rs.
need sup-ply in time and through e-ter-ni-ty.
bliss-ful plain, "To live is Christ; to die is gain."

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 rich 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.**

THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Mercifully grant, O God, that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts, for without your help we are unable to please you; 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

Amos 6:1-7

At the time of Amos, the Israelites enjoyed prosperity, but spiritually they were drifting from the LORD. The prophet warns not to let prosperity provide a false sense of security.

¹Woe to you who are complacent in Zion,
and to you who feel secure on Mount Samaria,
you notable men of the foremost nation,
to whom the people of Israel come!

²Go to Kalneh and look at it;
go from there to great Hamath,
and then go down to Gath in Philistia.

Are they better off than your two kingdoms?
Is their land larger than yours?

³You put off the day of disaster
and bring near a reign of terror.

⁴You lie on beds adorned with ivory
and lounge on your couches.

You dine on choice lambs and fattened calves.

⁵You strum away on your harps like David
and improvise on musical instruments.

⁷Therefore you will be among the first to go into exile;
your feasting and lounging will end.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hebrews 13:1-6

All Christian virtue, including a proper attitude toward wealth, comes from knowing the Lord is our help.

⁴Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

⁶So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Luke 16:31



Refrain



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

If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets,
they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead. *Refrain*

Jesus tells a parable about two men, one whose confidence was in his wealth, another whose confidence was in his God.

¹⁹“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

²²“The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side.

²⁴So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’

²⁵“But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

²⁷“He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, ²⁸for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

²⁹“Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

³⁰“‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

³¹“He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Children’s Devotion



Hymn of the Day: Jesus Calls Us o'er the Tumult

CW 711



1 Je - sus calls us o'er the tu - mult of our
 2 As the first dis - ci - ples heard it by the
 3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
 4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
 5 Je - sus calls us! In your mer - cy, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea; day by day his voice in -
 Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and toil and
 vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
 help us hear your call; give our hearts to your o -



vites us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me!"
 kin - dred, leav - ing all for his dear sake.
 keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
 plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
 be - dience, serve and love you best of all!

Sermon

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



 **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 connection 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.

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



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 of music. The melody is simple and repetitive, using a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The score is divided into three main sections: a first line (staves 1-2), a second line (staves 3-4), and a third line (staves 5-6). The first line ends with a double bar line. The second line ends with a double bar line. The third line ends with a double bar line. The lyrics for the first line are: "O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the". The lyrics for the second line are: "sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.". The lyrics for the third line are: "O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the". The lyrics for the fourth line are: "sin of the world; grant us your peace.". The lyrics for the fifth line are: "A - men. A - men.".

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.



(Sunday) Anthem: What is This Bread

Kurt Von Kampen

What is this bread?

Christ's body risen from the dead: This bread we break, This life we take.
Was crushed to pay for our release. Oh, taste and see, the Lord is peace.

What is this wine?

The blood of Jesus shed for mine; the cup of grace, brings his embrace.
Of life and love until I sing! Oh, taste and see, the Lord is King.

So who am I?

That I should live and He should die under the rod, My God, my God,
Why have you not forsaken me? Oh, taste and see, the Lord is free.

Yet is God here?

Oh yes! By Word and promise clear. In mouth and soul, He makes us whole,
Christ truly present in this meal. Oh, taste and see, the Lord is real.

Is this for me?

I am forgiven and set free! I do believe, that I receive
His very body and His blood, Oh, taste and see, the Lord is good!

Distribution Hymn: In This Holy, Blest Communion

CW 669



1 In this ho - ly, blest com - mun - ion plain and
 2 In this ho - ly, blest com - mun - ion Christ and
 3 In this ho - ly, blest com - mun - ion saints are

pre - cious gifts com - bine: bread is tru - ly
 sin - ners join as one— they, the Fa - ther's
 gath - ered side by side, joined to - geth - er,

Je - sus' bod - y, blood of Je - sus joins with wine.
 ran - somed chil - dren, he, the Fa - ther's right - ful Son.
 broth - ers, sis - ters, in one bod - y u - ni - fied,

What a bless - ing Christ is giv - ing; what a
 Here the loft - y feeds the low - ly, each his
 faith in Je - sus, hope of heav - en, love for

lov - ing, gra - cious host, in his sup - per
 high - ly cher - ished guest; here the guilt - y
 oth - ers all in - creased by the full - ness

well pro - vid - ing what his peo - ple need the most!
 taste for - give - ness, here the wea - ry find their rest.
 of the ban - quet, by the rich - ness of the feast.

Distribution Hymn: My Faith Looks Up to Thee

CW 811 sts. 1-3



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart;
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,



Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me while I pray; take all my
my zeal in - spire! As thou hast died for me, oh, may my
be thou my guide. Bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's



guilt a - way; O let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.

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.**

Be seated.

Hymn: My Faith Looks Up to Thee

CW 811 st. 4



4 When ends life's tran-sient dream, when death's cold, sul-len stream
shall o'er me roll, blest Sav-ior, then, in love, fear and dis-
trust re-move; O bear me safe a-bove, a ran-somed soul!

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. Sunday JAM for children ages 3yrs to 6th grade starts at 9:10am in the kindergarten room. Adult Bible study begins at 9:15 in the fellowship hall downstairs.

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Wounds That Heal: Increased Faith Increases Duty

Bible Readings: 1 Chronicles 29:1-2, 10-18; 2 Thess. 1:1-5, 11-12; Luke 17:1-10

Hymns: 918, 748, 797

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, 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.**

