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Welcome Home Weekend

*Welcome Home:
The Need for Christian Community*

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, hear my prayers and deliver me. Bless me today through your Word and Sacrament. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: "Army of One" was the shortest lived recruiting slogan in US military history. It was meant to stress the strength of the individual but the Army dropped the slogan relatively quickly. They realized it was contrary to the reality that in the army you rely completely on your team. In a stressful situation, an individual can be overwhelmed. God wired humans to need fellowship, not just with him, but with one another. So God is determined to bring believers into a loving, nurturing community—the Church.

Perhaps you have been a part of this Christian family for a long time. Perhaps you once belonged to a church, but for whatever reason drifted away. Perhaps you have never belonged to a church. Whatever may be the case for you, may God bless you as you listen to his Word today. May he help us all to realize that this Christian community—this spiritual home—is something we badly need. Welcome home!

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Preacher: Pastor Ryan Wolfe Sunday Liturgist: Pastor JonAlden Pedersen
Piano/Organ: Robyn Stoller & Luke Dorn

Choir Director: Luke Dorn Soloists: Steve Angus, Allison Dorn

Praise Group: Tom Stob, Luke Dorn, Brian Shult, Al Sehloff, Allison Dorn, Jessie Wolfe, Chloe Wolfe

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.

Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting Two



Hymn: Oh, How Good It Is

CW 731

Praise Group will lead the song, the congregation may join when comfortable.



1 Oh, how good it is when the fam - 'ly of God dwells to -
2 Oh, how good it is on this jour - ney we share to re -
3 Oh, how good it is to em - brace his com - mand to pre -



geth - er in spir - it, in faith and u - ni - ty. Where the
joice with the hap - py and weep with those who mourn. For the
fer one an - oth - er, for - give as he for - gives. When we



bonds of peace, of ac - cept - ance and love are the
weak find strength, the af - flict - ed find grace when we
live as one we all share in the love of the



fruits of his pres - ence here a - mong us.
of - fer the bless - ing of be - long - ing.
Son with the Fa - ther and the Spir - it.

Refrain



So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord,



and with one heart we'll live out his word,



till the whole earth sees the Re - deem - er has come,



for he dwells in the pres - ence of his peo - ple.

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

Congregation: Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: God has called us to live as family. Yet, our love for God and for each other is not what it should be. Our priorities and choices are often flawed. But the power of God's love enables us to live a new life. Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

C: **Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart. In what I have done and left undone, I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. I am truly sorry for my sins. I repent of them.**
I beg for your mercy, O Lord.

M: Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.

C: **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

M: God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and empowers us to be his people. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ has forgiven us and reconciled us to God and has promised us the power to forgive and love each other. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

(5pm) Hymn: All People That on Earth Do Dwell CW 601 sts. 1, 4

1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the
4 Trust that the Lord our God is good, his mer - cy

Lord with cheer - ful voice. Serve him with joy, his
is for - ev - er sure. His faith - ful - ness at

prais - es tell, come now be - fore him and re - joice!
all times stood and shall from age to age en - dure.

(Sunday) Choir Anthem

Te Deum

By Marty Haugen

The choir will introduce the refrain, the congregation may join in the refrain and the bolded print.

Refrain*

1. You are God: we praise you. 2. You are Lord: we ac - claim you. To

3. you, Cre-a-tor ho - ly, all cre - a-tion of - fers praise. 1. 2. To verses

3. you, Cre-a-tor ho - ly, all cre - a-tion of - fers praise. 1. 2. To verses

With the angels in heaven: We praise you, we praise you!
With the cherubim and seraphim: We praise you, we praise you!
With apostles and prophets: We praise you, we praise you!
With the martyrs and your holy Church: We sing in endless praise!

Creator of all things: **We praise you, we praise you!**
O Jesus Christ, Redeemer: **We praise you, we praise you!**
O Spirit, most Holy: **We praise you, we praise you!**
To the Trinity most blessed. **We sing in endless praise!**

O Christ, King of glory: **We praise you, we praise you!**
You became a man to set us free: **We praise you, we praise you!**
You have risen to free us: **We praise you, we praise you!**
You have hallowed our humanity: **We sing in endless praise!**

THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

First Reading

Ecclesiastes 4:7-12

Scripture says that people are wired to need one another. Two are better than one. Even better is having Christ as the third strand within a relationship. He provides the love and grace that keeps that bond strong.

- ⁷Again I saw something meaningless under the sun:
⁸There was a man all alone; he had neither son nor brother.
There was no end to his toil,
yet his eyes were not content with his wealth.
“For whom am I toiling,” he asked,
“and why am I depriving myself of enjoyment?”
This too is meaningless—
a miserable business!
⁹Two are better than one,
because they have a good return for their labor:
¹⁰If either of them falls down,
one can help the other up.
But pity anyone who falls
and has no one to help them up.
¹¹Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.
But how can one keep warm alone?
¹²Though one may be overpowered,
two can defend themselves.
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Hebrews 2:9-18

Jesus became our brother so that by his suffering, death and resurrection he might unite us to himself and knit us together into a spiritual family.

- ⁹But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.
¹⁰In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. ¹¹Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. ¹²He says,
“I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the assembly I will sing your praises.”

¹³And again, “I will put my trust in him.”

And again he says, “Here am I, and the children God has given me.”

¹⁴Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. ¹⁷For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Hebrews 2:12



“I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the assembly I will sing your praises.” **Refrain**

Gospel

Matthew 11:25-30

Jesus wants us in his family so that he might give us rest and peace

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. ²⁶Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

²⁷“All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Hymn: God Is Here! As We Your People

CW 858 sts. 1-3

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the

of - fer praise and prayer, may we find in
life - long need of grace. Here are ta - ble,
Shep - herd's flock and fold; here, as bread and

full - er mea - sure what it is in Christ we share.
font, and pul - pit; here the cross has cen - tral place.
wine are tak - en, Christ sus - tains us as of old.

Here, as in the world a - round us, all our
Here, in hon - es - ty of preach - ing, here, in
Here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant seek in

var - ied skills and arts wait the com - ing
si - lence as in speech, here, in new - ness
wor - ship to ex - plore what it means in

of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.

Sermon

Based on Hebrews 2:9-18

“Welcome Home”

Please stand after the sermon.

THANKSGIVING

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated.

Offering



Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to. We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



Please stand.

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

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

CW 184

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

Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

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 you have not communed with us before, please see the announcement on the inside cover of this service folder.

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-gether,



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.

After the distribution 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

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, 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.

Closing Hymn: God Is Here! As We Your People

CW 858 st. 4

Find the closing hymn on the next page.



Hymn: God Is Here! As We Your People

CW 858 st. 4



4 Lord of all, of Church and king - dom, in an
age of change and doubt, keep us faith - ful
to the gos - pel; help us work your pur - pose out.
Here, in this day's ded - i - ca - tion, all we
have to give, re - ceive; we who can - not
live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, all are invited to fellowship in the entry between services. Sunday JAM for children ages 3yrs to 6th grade starts at 9:15am in the kindergarten room. Adult & Teen Bible study meets in the fellowship hall downstairs.

Welcome Home

We invite all members and visitors this weekend to wear a nametag and spend a little extra time greeting people before and after worship. Members are invited to write their name on a Salem "leaf" and staple it onto the tree bulletin board in the church entry.

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Welcome Home: Where Christ Works In and Through Us
Bible Readings: Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 2 Corinthians 5:18-21, Luke 5:1-11
Hymns: 870, 716, 640

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 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.**

