



# SON OF GOD



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**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:** Savior Jesus, you came into the world as one of us to live and die perfectly in our place. Thank you for your love and compassion. Let my worship today be joyful and filled with praise. Amen.

**THEME OF THE DAY:** Christmas holidays mean family time, often with extended family travel and visits. Meals are prepared, gifts are given, memories are made. But the memories might not all be good. Sometimes there are Christmas hurts or even tragedies. We live in a world still affected by sin. The sinfulness of the world cannot rob us of the peace God intends to bring through his Son. Christ the Savior is born, and through his life, he gives us the rights of redeemed sons and daughters, the privileges of inheritance.

**WORSHIP SERIES:** "Silent Night" was written originally in German by Joseph Mohr, with music composed by Franz Gruber. The carol was first performed on Christmas Eve in 1818 at St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf, Austria. Legend says the church organ was broken, prompting Gruber to compose a simple guitar accompaniment. Subsequently accompanied by many instruments and translated into many languages, the text paints the picture of the incarnation. The last phrase is repeated, so in the second stanza we hear it twice: "Christ the Savior is born!" Every word of that phrase is significant, and every line of the Christmas carol describes a Bible truth.

**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:***

Preacher: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Piano: Abigail Ibisch

# Order of Worship

*CW Hymnal, Setting Three*



## Hymn: Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

CW 332



1 Let us all with glad-some voice praise the God of heav - en,  
2 To this vale of tears he comes, here to serve in sad - ness,  
3 We are rich, for he was poor; is not this a won - der?  
4 Christ, our Lord and Sav - ior dear, bless us and be near us.



who, to bid our hearts re - joice, his own Son has giv - en.  
that with him in heav'n's fair homes we may reign in glad - ness.  
There - fore praise God ev - er - more here on earth and yon - der.  
Grant us now a glad new year. A - men, Je - sus, hear us.

*Please stand.*

M: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: **If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

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 ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

# Glory to God in the Highest

CW 191

The musical score is written on ten staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The lyrics are: 'Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For'.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to  
God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,  
and peace to his peo - ple on earth.  
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and  
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we  
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly  
Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on  
us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the  
Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For

you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the  
 Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus  
 Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the  
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.  
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to  
 God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,  
 and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

## THE WORD OF GOD

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

**C:** And also with you.

### ***Prayer of the Day***

**M:** Let us pray.

Almighty God, the martyred innocents of Bethlehem showed forth your praise not by speaking but by dying. Put to death in us all that is in conflict with your will that our lives may bear witness to the faith we profess with our lips; 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 63:7-9

*The kindness of the Lord is seen in sending a Savior to redeem those who turn away from him.*

<sup>7</sup>I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD,  
the deeds for which he is to be praised,  
according to all the LORD has done for us—  
yes, the many good things  
he has done for Israel,  
according to his compassion and many kindnesses.  
<sup>8</sup>He said, “Surely they are my people,  
children who will be true to me”;  
and so he became their Savior.  
<sup>9</sup>In all their distress he too was distressed,  
and the angel of his presence saved them.  
In his love and mercy he redeemed them;  
he lifted them up and carried them  
all the days of old.

M: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Second Reading**

Galatians 4:4-7

*Redeemed by God’s true Son, we can call God “Our Father.”*

<sup>4</sup>But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman,  
born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those under the law, that we might receive  
adoption to sonship. <sup>6</sup>Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son  
into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer  
a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

M: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 98:1



### Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Sing to the LORD a new song;

his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. **Refrain**

## Gospel

Matthew 2:13-23

*God saves his Son from an early death. God's plan was to save the world by having his Son die on the cross when he had fully come.*

<sup>13</sup>When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

<sup>14</sup>So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, <sup>15</sup>where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

<sup>16</sup>When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. <sup>17</sup>Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

<sup>18</sup>"A voice is heard in Ramah,  
weeping and great mourning,  
Rachel weeping for her children  
and refusing to be comforted,  
because they are no more."

<sup>19</sup>After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt <sup>20</sup>and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead."

<sup>21</sup>So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.

<sup>22</sup>But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father

Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee,<sup>23</sup> and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated.*

## Children's Devotion

### Hymn of the Day: Let All Together Praise Our God

CW 355



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore his  
 2 He leaves his heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, is born an  
 3 He veils in flesh his pow'r di - vine a ser - vant's  
 4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, puts on our



high - est throne; to - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain and  
 in - fant small, and in a man - ger, poor and lone, lies  
 form to take, in want and low - li - ness must pine who  
 hu - man frame, and in re - turn gives us his realm, his



gives us his own Son, and gives us his own Son.  
 in a hum - ble stall, lies in a hum - ble stall.  
 heav'n and earth did make, who heav'n and earth did make.  
 glo - ry, and his name, his glo - ry, and his name.

5 He serves that I a lord may be—a great exchange indeed!

Could Jesus' love do more for me to help me in my need,  
 to help me in my need?

6 For us he opens wide the door of paradise today.

The angel guards the gate no more; to God our thanks we pay,  
 to God our thanks we pay.

## Sermon

*Based on Matthew 2:13-23*

*"Promises Kept, Promises Fulfilled"*

*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



*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

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, by whose wonderful and mysterious birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. 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 200



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts,



heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, 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 202

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us, grant us peace.

*Be seated.*

## Communion Distribution

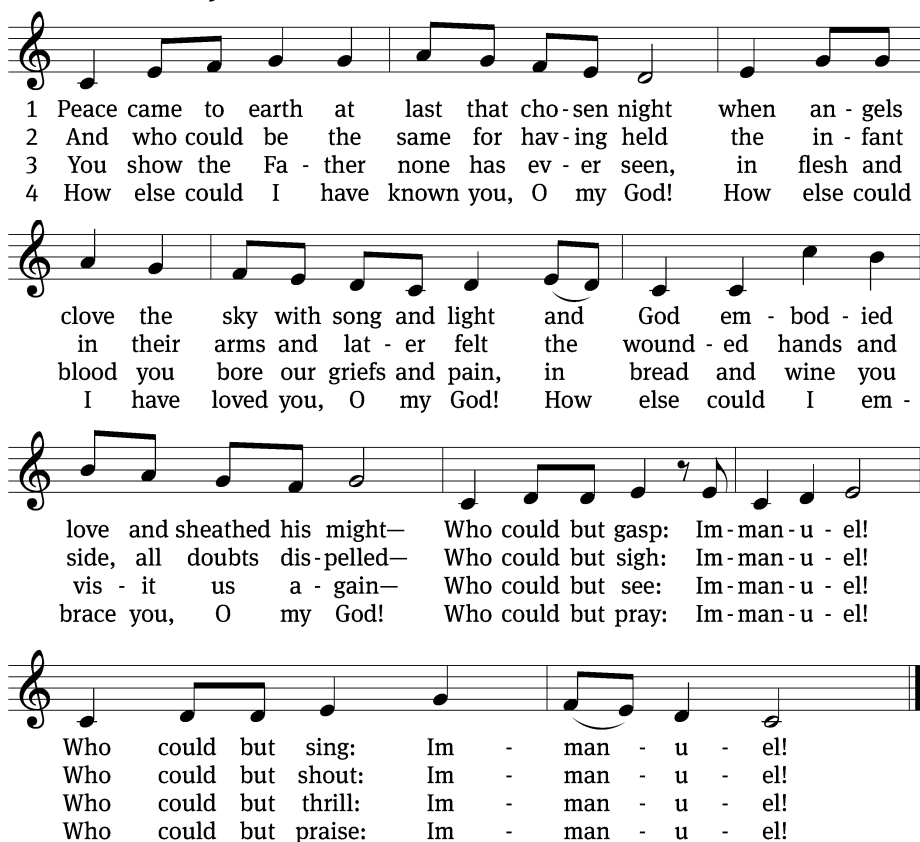
*For those who cannot have any alcohol for personal or medical reasons we offer white grape juice. You will find cups of white grape juice in the center of each communion tray. Gluten-free wafers are available by request for those medically unable to tolerate gluten.*

*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.*

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

## Distribution Hymn: Peace Came to Earth

CW 330



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho-sen night when an - gels  
2 And who could be the same for hav - ing held the in - fant  
3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen, in flesh and  
4 How else could I have known you, O my God! How else could

clove the sky with song and light and God em - bod - ied  
in their arms and lat - er felt the wound - ed hands and  
blood you bore our griefs and pain, in bread and wine you  
I have loved you, O my God! How else could I em -

love and sheathed his might— Who could but gasp: Im - man - u - el!  
side, all doubts dis - pelled— Who could but sigh: Im - man - u - el!  
vis - it us a - gain— Who could but see: Im - man - u - el!  
brace you, O my God! Who could but pray: Im - man - u - el!

Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

*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.

*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: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through 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.**

## Hymn: Away in a Manger

CW 340



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.  
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,  
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care,



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.  
and take us to heav - en to live with you there.

# Silent Prayer and Announcements

## Acknowledgments

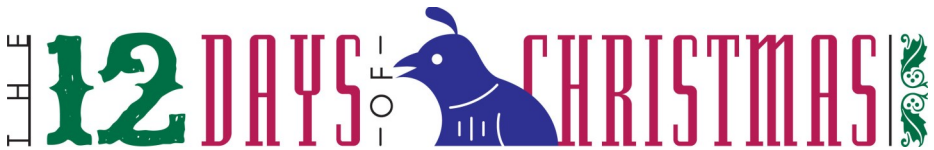
Setting Three from Christian Worship  
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### Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy 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: Love's Pure Light Beams from Thy Holy Face  
Bible Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6, Ephesians 3:2-12, Matthew 2:1-12  
Hymns: 344, 370, 372



The Church celebrates Christmas for twelve days, beginning December 25th and continuing until the Festival of Epiphany on January 6th. Join us again for Christmas celebration!

### **Weekend of December 28th (Regular service times)**

*Silent Night: Son of God*

The Son of God took on flesh for two reasons: to be our substitute and our sacrifice. In life AND in death Jesus is the only gift who could have given us peace and forgiveness.

### **Wednesday, December 31st at 4:30pm**

While not a part of our Christmas series or a religious festival, it makes sense that we would spend time with the Lord as one year opens and another closes. The New Year's Eve service is shorter and devotional, and includes Holy Communion.

### **Weekend of January 4th (Regular service times)**

*Silent Night: Love's Pure Light Beams from Thy Holy Face*

The season of Christmas ends on January 6th, known as Epiphany, "the Gentile Christmas." In this weekend's services we consider the way God guided the wise men to Jesus and made it clear that salvation in Jesus is for us Gentiles too.



## **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.**

