

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

February 7-8, 2026

SALT & LIGHT



# IDENTITY REVEALED



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

651-439-7831

[www.salemlutheran.org](http://www.salemlutheran.org)

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

*Identity Revealed: Salt & Light*

**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 bless me every day with life and faith. Bless me today as I gather with this family of faith to give you praise and honor and glory. Renew me in Jesus by your Word and Sacrament. Amen.

**THEME OF THE DAY:** In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches us that form and function are closely connected. That means that who we are influences what we do. When God called us to faith, he declared that we were something new: light, salt, his children. Jesus encourages us to be what God says we are as a way of blessing the world through us.

**OUR WORSHIP SERIES:** "Epiphany" comes from a Greek word that means "reveal." In this season we see Jesus begin his public ministry, revealing the reason the Son of God came to earth. During Epiphany, we come to understand that when the true identity of Jesus is revealed, we realize our own true identity as well.

**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

**Acknowledgments**

Setting One from Christian Worship

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Reprinted under OneLicense # 48708 and CCLI # 630266

# Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting One



## Hymn: Church of God, Elect and Glorious

CW 854 sts. 1-3



1 Church of God, e - lect and glo - rious, ho - ly  
2 God has called you out of dark - ness in - to  
3 Once you were an al - ien peo - ple, stran - gers



na - tion, cho - sen race, called as God's own  
his most mar - v'lous light, brought his truth to  
to God's heart of love, but he brought you



spe - cial peo - ple, roy - al priests and heirs of grace;  
life with - in you, turned your blind - ness in - to sight.  
home in mer - cy, cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove.



know the pur - pose of your call - ing, show to  
Let your light so shine a - round you that God's  
Let his love flow out to oth - ers, let them



all his might - y deeds, tell of love that  
name is glo - ri - fied and all find fresh  
feel a Fa - ther's care, that they too may



knows no lim - its, grace that meets all hu - man needs.  
hope and pur - pose in Christ Je - sus cru - ci - fied.  
know his wel - come and his count - less bless - ings share.

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: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

**C: Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.** *(Psalm 32)*

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**C: Almighty and merciful Father,**

**we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.**

**We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.**

**We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.**

**We have done those things that we should not have done,**

**And we have not done those things that we should have done.**

**Have mercy on us Lord!**

**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,**

**according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

M: God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### Hymn: Church of God, Elect and Glorious

CW 854 st. 4

The musical score is written on six staves of five-line music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are written below the notes, aligned with the syllables. The hymn concludes with a double bar line on the sixth staff.

4 Church of God, e - lect and ho - ly, be the  
 peo - ple he in - tends, strong in faith and  
 swift to an - swer each com - mand your mas - ter sends.  
 Roy - al priests, ful - fill your call - ing through your  
 sac - ri - fice and prayer; give your lives in  
 joy - ful ser - vice, sing his praise, his love de - clare.

## 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, you sent your one and only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us believe what the Scriptures proclaim about him and do the things that are pleasing in your sight; 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**

Exodus 19:1-8a

*God made something special out of Israel, a nation of slaves.*

<sup>1</sup>On the first day of the third month after the Israelites left Egypt—on that very day—they came to the Desert of Sinai. <sup>2</sup>After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain.

<sup>3</sup>Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: <sup>4</sup>‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup>Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, <sup>6</sup>you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.”

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Second Reading**

1 Peter 2:9-12

*St. Peter encourages us to be what God has declared us to be.*

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

<sup>11</sup>Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. <sup>12</sup>Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 5:16



*Refrain*



Let your light shine before others,  
that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. **Refrain**

## Gospel

Matthew 5:13-20

*Jesus explains that his disciples are blessings to this dark, decaying world.*

<sup>13</sup>“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

<sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

<sup>15</sup>Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

<sup>17</sup>“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup>For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Be seated.

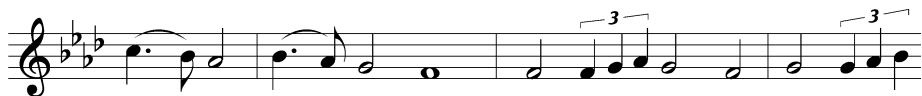
## Children's Devotion

### Hymn of the Day: Thy Strong Word

CW 630 sts. 1-4



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy  
2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, dark as  
3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us right - eous; bright with  
4 From the cross thy wis - dom shin - ing break - eth



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed light we  
night and deep as death, broke the light of thy sal -  
thine own ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward  
forth in con - qu'ring might; from the cross for - ev - er



thank thee while thine or - dered sea - sons run.  
va - tion, breathed thine own life - giv - ing breath.  
glo - ry, and our lives our hopes con - fess.  
beam - eth all thy bright re - deem - ing light.



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



thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,  
thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!  
al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

## *“What makes me a Christian?”*

1) Righteousness known

2) Righteousness shown

### 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.



### **(10:30am) New Member Celebration**

*New members to our family of faith in 2025 are invited to the front of church.*

*Baptism: Riggs Karel, Jairus Nicolet, Elva Schmiede, Alaina Dorn, Mara Jo Walters, Shaylee Doyle, Riley Forster, Charlotte Lonetti, Dominic Lonetti, Madelynn Lonetti, Soren Engman, Ivar Engman, Sven Engman, Loretta Doerr, Peyton Praschak*

*WELS Transfer: Rob & Patricia Longsdorf, Allen Stabner, Rebekah Lobdell, Larry & Chris Kelly, JonAlden & Kaitlyn Pedersen (Oliver), Melissa Erickson, Aaron & Amy Cooper, Taylor Praschak*

*Profession of faith: Courtney Heroff (Addie, Henry, & William), Lee & Caroly Graves (Lou), Jakob & Emily Broesch, Elaine Kamper, Barb Huber, Neal & Monica Matuska*

*Confirmation: Mark Daniels, Patti Strongitharm, Ty Bui, Jim & Michelle Feller, Ryan Heroff, Jacob Olson, Alex & Savannah Doerr, Garret & Allison Engman, Rachel Lonetti, Cindy Thibodeau*

M: Friends in Christ, St. Paul described the unity that exists in Christ's church when he wrote, *“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”* With sincere joy we welcome you to the fellowship of our congregation.

As you know, believers in Christ regularly gather around his Word and sacraments, encourage one another in faith and life, and carry out the work of his kingdom. The Scriptures encourage us: *“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.”*



M: I ask you: Is it your desire to continue to join us in worship and mission and support this work with your prayers and gifts? If so, then respond, "It is, and I ask God to help me."

**New members: It is, and I ask God to help me.**

M: Brothers and sisters, as we welcome these new members to our Christian family, I encourage you in the name of Jesus to keep them in your minds, hold them in your hearts, and pray for them again and again. Show them the face of friendship and offer them a hand of support. Encourage them with your "works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

M: The peace of Christ be with us all. Amen.

*Please stand.*

M: Gracious Father, we thank you for leading these brothers and sisters to desire to become a members of our congregation. Guide us with your wisdom as we worship and work together. Mold our minds and hearts into a single Christlike will so that we may be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### ***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, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. 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 heav - en - ly hosts:  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -  
 san - na, ho-san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he,  
 bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 Ho-san - na, 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.

## O Christ, Lamb of God

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.

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.*

## Hymn: I Come, O Savior, to Your Table

CW 670 sts. 1-5, 9



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to your ta - ble, for weak and  
 2 O grant that I in man - ner wor - thy may eat and  
 3 I should not be your sheep, dear Sav - ior; I stray in  
 4 O let me loathe all sin for - ev - er as death and



wea - ry is my soul; O Je - sus, you a -  
 drink and be re - stored, and, dwell - ing on your  
 sin's ac - cursed ter - rain. And yet you par - don  
 poi - son to my soul, that I through will - ful



lone are a - ble to sat - is - fy and make me whole.  
 bound - less mer - cy, look on - ly un - to you, O Lord.  
 my be - hav - ior; my faith - ful Shep - herd you re - main.  
 sin - ning nev - er may see your judg - ment take its toll!

### Refrain



Lord, may your bod - y and your blood be for my soul the high - est good.

- 5 Your holy heart has one obsession, one blessed thing it burns to do—  
 to cleanse the sinner from transgression; so I, a sinner, come to you. (Refrain)
- 9 This meal with blessing is abounding: to poor ones wealth, to weak ones pow'r  
 to angels joy, to hell confounding, and life for me in death's dark hour (Refrain)

## Hymn: May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill

CW 697



1 May we your pre - cepts, Lord, ful - fill and do on  
 2 So may we join your name to bless, your grace a -  
 3 Spir - it of life, of love, and peace, u - nite our



earth our Fa - ther's will as an - gels do a - bove;  
 dore, your pow'r con - fess, to flee from sin and strife.  
 hearts, our joy in - crease, your gra - cious help sup - ply.

still walk in Christ, the liv - ing way, with all your  
 One is our call - ing, one our name, the end of  
 To each of us the bless - ing give in Chris - tian  
 chil - dren, and o - bey the law of Chris - tian love.  
 all our hopes the same: a glo - rious crown of life.  
 fel - low - ship to live, in joy - ful hope to die.

*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 & 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.**

## Hymn: Thy Strong Word

CW 630 sts. 5-6

5 Give us lips to sing thy glo - ry, tongues thy  
6 God the Fa - ther, light - cre - at - or, to thee  
mer - cy to pro - claim, throats to shout the hope that  
laud and hon - or be. To thee, Light from Light be -  
fills us, mouths to speak thy ho - ly name.  
got - ten, praise be sung e - ter - nal - ly.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! May the  
Ho - ly Spir - it, light - re - veal - er, glo - ry,  
light which thou dost send fill our songs with  
glo - ry be to thee. Mor - tals, an - gels,  
al - le - lu - ias, al - le - lu - ias with - out end!  
now and ev - er praise the ho - ly Trin - i - ty!

## Silent Prayer and Announcements

### 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 9:15am in the kindergarten room. Adult Bible study begins at 9:15 in the fellowship hall downstairs

### For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Identity Revealed: Son of God in Glory

Bible Readings: Exodus 24:9-18, 2 Peter 1:16-21, Matthew 17:1-9

Hymns: 389, 388, 977

## **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. Cards can be placed in the offering basket or left on the table near the sanctuary entrance.
- † 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.**

