

14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

651-439-7831

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: Dear Jesus you restored sight to the blind so that he opened his eyes and saw his Savior. Open our eyes to see you each and every day as we walk in the light of your forgiveness. Oversee our lives and lead us away from pathways of temptation, guide and direct us using the power of your Word so that we may rejoice and be glad as children of your salvation made sure by your very blood. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: I recognize that I am spiritually blind when I don't know Jesus. I cannot see the world as it really is. I am tempted to see what is harmful as good, and what is good as meaningless. I cannot see the danger that lurks behind every temptation. I realize that Jesus gave physical sight to the blind. But he also gives me spiritual vision. He said, "I am the light of the world." He comes to shine his light into my darkened eyes so that I see him and live.

WORSHIP SERIES: "I didn't know how much I needed that" is a common expression of surprise and realization. It suggests that something new has come to light, and we now see it as essential or valuable, even if we didn't see it before.

Lent is the season of the Church Year when we recognize our greatest needs. In this season we realize that all our greatest needs are met in Christ. God knows what we need most. If we lack Christ, we have nothing. But if we have Christ, we have exactly what we need.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Preacher: Pastor JonAlden Pedersen Piano: Abigail Ibsch

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Exactly What I Need: Life

Bible Readings: 2 Kings 4:17-37, 16-23, Romans 8:11-19, John 11:17-27, 38-45

Hymns: 502, 571, 396

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Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting Two



Hymn: Church of God, Elect and Glorious

CW 854 Sts. 1-2, 4



1 Church of God, e - lect and glo - rious, ho - ly
2 God has called you out of dark - ness in - to
4 Church of God, e - lect and ho - ly, be the



na - tion, cho - sen race, called as God's own
his most mar - v'lous light, brought his truth to
peo - ple he in - tends, strong in faith and



spe - cial peo - ple, roy - al priests and heirs of grace;
life with - in you, turned your blind - ness in - to sight.
swift to an - swer each com - mand your mas - ter sends.



know the pur - pose of your call - ing, show to
Let your light so shine a - round you that God's
Roy - al priests, ful - fill your call - ing through your



all his might - y deeds, tell of love that
name is glo - ri - fied and all find fresh
sac - ri - fice and prayer; give your lives in



knows no lim - its, grace that meets all hu - man needs.
hope and pur - pose in Christ Je - sus cru - ci - fied.
joy - ful ser - vice, sing his praise, his love de - clare.

Please remain seated.

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

Congregation: 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.** *(1 John 1:8-9)*

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 \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Gloria: Church of God, Elect and Glorious

CW 854 st. 3

3 Once you were an al - ien peo - ple, stran - gers
to God's heart of love, but he brought you
home in mer - cy, cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove.
Let his love flow out to oth - ers, let them



feel a Fa - ther's care, that they too may
know his wel-come and his count - less bless - ings share.

THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, by your almighty power you opened the eyes of the blind and showed yourself to them. Turn our eyes away from worthless things, and lead us to love you sincerely; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated.

First Reading

Isaiah 42:14-21

God promises to lead the blind to safety and turn their darkness to light.

- ¹⁴“For a long time I have kept silent,
I have been quiet and held myself back.
But now, like a woman in childbirth,
I cry out, I gasp and pant.
- ¹⁵I will lay waste the mountains and hills
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn rivers into islands
and dry up the pools.
- ¹⁶I will lead the blind by ways they have not known,
along unfamiliar paths I will guide them;
I will turn the darkness into light before them
and make the rough places smooth.

These are the things I will do;

I will not forsake them.

¹⁷But those who trust in idols,
who say to images, 'You are our gods,'
will be turned back in utter shame.

¹⁸"Hear, you deaf;
look, you blind, and see!

¹⁹Who is blind but my servant,
and deaf like the messenger I send?
Who is blind like the one in covenant with me,
blind like the servant of the LORD?

²⁰You have seen many things, but you pay no attention;
your ears are open, but you do not listen."

²¹It pleased the LORD
for the sake of his righteousness
to make his law great and glorious.

M: The Word of the Lord.

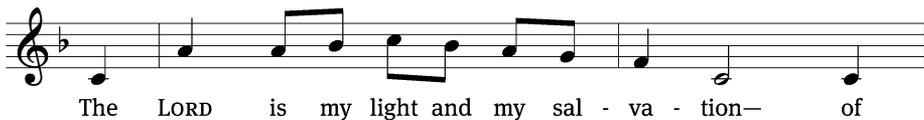
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: The LORD Is My Light and My Salvation

Psalm 27C

The church sings Psalm 27 in services that emphasize the victory of the light of the Lord over darkness and unbelief, false gods, and false doctrine

Refrain



Tone



Hear my voice when I / call, LORD;
be merciful to me and / answer me.
Do not hide your / face from me,
do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my / helper.
Do not reject me or for- / sake me,
God my / Savior. *Refrain*

Though my father and mother for- / sake me,
the LORD will re- / ceive me.
I remain confi- / dent of this:
I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the / living.
Wait / for the LORD;
be strong and take heart and wait / for the LORD.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

Once I have seen the light of Christ, I strive to leave deeds of darkness behind.

⁸For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹²It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light.

¹⁴This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Hebrews 12:2



Refrain



Praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, king of end - less glo - ry.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. *Refrain*

Gospel

John 9:1–7,13–17,34–39

Jesus enables a man who had been born blind to see him both physically and spiritually.

¹As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

³“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

⁶After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. ⁷“Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath.

¹⁵Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”

¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.”

But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided.

¹⁷Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.”

The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

³⁴To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

³⁶“Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.”

³⁷Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.”

³⁸Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

³⁹Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Children's Devotion

Hymn of the Day: O Christ, Our True and Only Light

CW 904



1 O Christ, our true and on - ly light, en - light - en
2 Fill with the ra - diance of your grace the souls now
3 O gent - ly call those gone a - stray that they may
4 Shine on the dark - ened and the cold, re - call the
5 That they with us may ev - er - more such grace with



those who sit in night; let those a - far now
lost in er - ror's maze; en - light - en those whose
find the sav - ing way; let ev - 'ry con - science
wan - d'ers to your fold; u - nite all those who
won - d'ring thanks a - dore and end - less praise to



hear your voice and in your fold with us re - joice.
in - most minds some dark de - lu - sion haunts and blinds.
sore op - pressed in you find peace and heav'n - ly rest.
walk a - part, con - firm the weak and doubt - ing heart,
you be giv'n by all your Church in earth and heav'n.

Sermon

Based on Ephesians 5

"Christ Offers Transparency"

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.

Be seated.

Prayer

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

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: On My Heart Imprint Your Image CW 405



On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



that life's rich - es, cares, and plea - sures have no pow'r to hide your face.



Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, and my glo - ry and sal - va - tion.

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

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.**

