



# What Makes Christians *Different*

*Christians Live as  
Wheat Among  
Weeds*



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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:** Redeemer, you have won for us eternal life, and reaped for us eternal peace and unending hope. Swell up these gifts within us to create in us fruit that is pleasing in your sight. Give us your love as we love one another, and protect us from the Evil One. Grant us the strength to accomplish the tasks you have set before us not for our own glory, but only for your praise and glory forever. Amen.

**THEME OF THE DAY:** The wheat that grows in the Middle East is a variety that looks much like wild grass or weeds. It is difficult to tell wheat and weeds apart until shortly before harvest time, when the wheat stalks develop a head containing the kernels of grain. Pulling the weeds out of a wheat field could lead to accidentally pulling up a fair amount of wheat. People need to wait for the harvest to separate wheat from weeds. We might want God to take care of evil now, pulling up all the weeds. But he tells us to wait for the harvest of judgment day. So we live as wheat among weeds, being faithful, fruitful, and mindful of the coming harvest.

**OUR WORSHIP SERIES:** Christians are people who run to Christ for forgiveness because they have failed to live perfect lives. As we receive the mercy of Christ, it moves us to strive with all our being to do all the things that Jesus says Christians do - yet more things that make Christians different.

***SERVING GOD, SERVING US:***

Preacher: Pastor JonAlden Pedersen

Piano: Abigail Ibisch

**For Worship Next Week**

Worship theme: What Makes Christians Different? Christians Seek Spiritual Wealth

Bible Readings: 1 Kings 3:5-12; 1 Timothy 6:17-21; Matthew 13:44-52

Hymns: 898, 717, 660, 505, 827

**Acknowledgments**

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# Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting One



## Hymn: Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray

CW 873



1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; from your sleep a -  
2 Watch a - gainst the dev - il's snares lest a - sleep he  
3 Watch! Let not the wick - ed world with its lies de -  
4 Watch a - gainst your - self, my soul, lest with grace you  
5 But while watch - ing al - so pray to the Lord un -



wak - en! Be not by the e - vil day un - a -  
find you; for in - deed no pains he spares to de -  
feat you lest with bold de - cep - tions hurled it be -  
tri - fle; let not self your thoughts con - trol nor God's  
ceas - ing. God pro - tects you day by day, strength and



wares o'er - tak - en; for the foe, well we know, is a  
ceive and blind you. Sa - tan's prey oft are they who se -  
tray and cheat you. Watch and see lest there be faith - less  
mer - cy sti - fle. Pride and sin lurk with - in, all your  
faith in - creas - ing, so that still mind and will shall u -



har - vest reap - ing while the saints are sleep - ing.  
cure are sleep - ing and no watch are keep - ing.  
friends to charm you who but seek to harm you.  
hopes to shat - ter; heed not when they flat - ter.  
nite to serve him and for - ev - er love him.

*Please stand.*

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the  $\dagger$  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)

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.**

## **Hymn: How Great Thou Art**

CW 612 sts. 1, Ref, 2



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won - der  
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der



con - sid - er all the works thy hand hath made,  
and hear the birds sing sweet - ly in the trees;



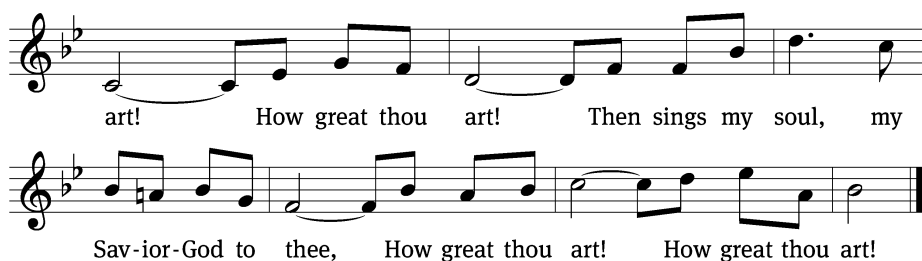
I see the stars, I hear the might - y thun - der,  
when I look down from loft - y moun-tain gran - deur



thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;  
and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;



Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior-God, to thee, How great thou



## THE WORD OF GOD

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

**C:** **And also with you.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

**M:** Let us pray.

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with you in perfect joy hereafter; 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 44:6-11*

*Like wheat among weeds, Christians live surrounded by evil in this world.*

<sup>6</sup>"This is what the LORD says—

Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty:

I am the first and I am the last;

apart from me there is no God.

<sup>7</sup>Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it.

Let him declare and lay out before me

what has happened since I established my ancient people,

and what is yet to come—

yes, let them foretell what will come.

<sup>8</sup>Do not tremble, do not be afraid.

Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago?

You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me?

No, there is no other Rock; I know not one."

<sup>9</sup>All who make idols are nothing,  
 and the things they treasure are worthless.  
 Those who would speak up for them are blind;  
 they are ignorant, to their own shame.  
<sup>10</sup>Who shapes a god and casts an idol,  
 which can profit nothing?  
<sup>11</sup>People who do that will be put to shame;  
 such craftsmen are only human beings.  
 Let them all come together and take their stand;  
 they will be brought down to terror and shame.

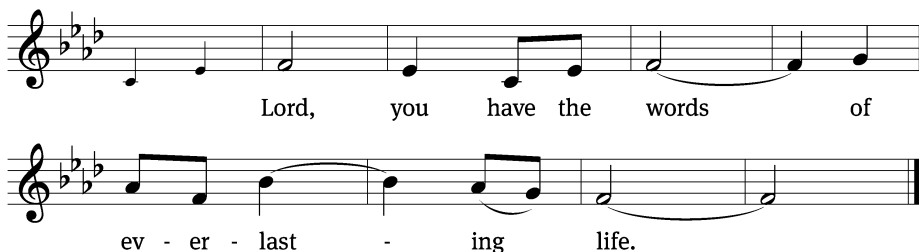
M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm: Lord, You Have the Words of Everlasting Life**

Psalm 19C

### *Refrain*



The heavens declare the glo- / ry of God;  
 the skies proclaim the work / of his hands.  
 Their voice goes out into / all the earth,  
 their words to the ends / of the world. *Refrain*

The law of the LORD is / perfect,  
 refresh- / ing the soul.  
 The commands of the LORD are / radiant,  
 giving light / to the eyes.  
 They are more pre- / cious than gold;  
 they are sweeter than / honey. *Refrain*

May these words of my mouth and this meditation / of my heart  
 be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my rock and my Re- / deemer.

**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

Romans 1:18-25

*God is not ambivalent about evil in the world, but his wrath will be fully revealed only at Judgment Day.*

<sup>18</sup>The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, <sup>19</sup>since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. <sup>20</sup>For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

<sup>21</sup>For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup>Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools <sup>23</sup>and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

<sup>24</sup>Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. <sup>25</sup>They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gospel Acclamation

Romans 11:33



*Refrain*



Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! **Refrain**

*The Lord has a plan to separate wheat and weeds at the final harvest.*

<sup>24</sup>Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. <sup>25</sup>But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. <sup>26</sup>When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

<sup>27</sup>“The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’

<sup>28</sup>“ ‘An enemy did this,’ he replied.

“The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’

<sup>29</sup>“ ‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’ ”

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him and said, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field.”

<sup>37</sup>He answered, “The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the people of the kingdom. The weeds are the people of the evil one, <sup>39</sup>and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

<sup>40</sup>“As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. <sup>41</sup>The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. <sup>42</sup>They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated.*

## Children’s Devotion

# Hymn of the Day: Come, You Thankful People, Come

CW 491



- 1 Come, you thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.
- 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;
- 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har-vest home,
- 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to your fi - nal har-vest home;



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.  
wheat and weeds to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.  
from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way,  
gath - er all your peo - ple in, free from sor-row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, shall pro-vide for our wants to be sup-plied.  
First the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.  
give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the weeds to cast,  
there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in your gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.  
Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.  
but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.  
Come with all your an - gels, come; raise the glo - rious har - vest home.

## Sermon

Based on Matthew 13: 24-30; 36-43

### *"The Parable of the Present Age"*

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



 **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.**

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: God Has Spoken by His Prophets

CW 639



1 God has spo - ken by his proph-ets, spo - ken his un - chang - ing Word,  
2 God has spo - ken by Christ Je - sus, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Son,  
3 God is speak - ing by his Spir - it, speak - ing to our hearts a - gain,



each from age to age pro - claim - ing God, the one, the right - eous Lord.  
bright - ness of the Fa - ther's glo - ry, with the Fa - ther ev - er one;  
in the age - less Word de - clar - ing his own mes - sage, now as then.



In the world's de - spair and tur - moil one firm an - chor holds us fast:  
spo - ken by the Word in - car - nate, God from God, be - fore time was;  
Thro' the rise and fall of na - tions one sure faith is stand - ing fast:



God is King, his throne e - ter - nal, God the first and God the last.  
Light from Light, to earth de - scend - ing, he re - veals our God to us.  
God a - bides, his Word un - chang - ing, God the first and God the last.

## Silent Prayer and Announcements

### Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy fellowship in the entry between services.  
Adult Bible study begins at 10:15 in the church sanctuary.

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

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## 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.**

