

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 15-16, 2026



*The
Church
is for
All People*

UNEXPECTED TRUTHS



Salem Lutheran

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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: Lord of the church, stir within us a steadfast heart that overflows in compassion for those ignorant of your grace. Be Yourself to me so that when I see someone in need, I may be a vessel of your mercy to them and they may experience your lovingkindness, patience, mercy, and grace through me. Yes, Lord, this is the glorious ministry you have brought to your church: to be ambassador's of Christ. So work in my life this week. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: "All are welcome!" Is that true at our church? Would we truly welcome the stranger who doesn't look or talk like we do, or would we ask, "What is someone like that doing here?" Or perhaps you ask that question about yourself. "There seem to be godly people here. I'm not like them. Do I really belong?" Jesus reminds us again that the Church is for all people. All of us - regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, or social status - have the same problem of sin. And we all have the same Savior.

WORSHIP SERIES: The most important truths in the Bible are not self-evident. In fact, they frequently appear surprising or even contrary to human expectation. Humanity is not naturally good but deeply sinful. Salvation cannot be achieved through human effort but comes entirely by God's grace. God brings sinners to eternal life through Jesus' suffering and death. Biblical truth is revealed by God rather than discovered by reason alone. While some truths may seem obvious, the Bible is filled with unexpected truths.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Preacher: Pastor Jon Enter Piano/Organ: Robyn Stoller
Vocalist: Steve Angus

Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting Two



Hymn: Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

CW 920



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
3 Grant, we pray, to all your faith - ful all the gifts they
4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
ask to gain; what they gain from you for - ev - er
to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the Church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est
with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion speak with - in these walls to - day.
in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

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: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

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.**

Solo: Nearer, Still Nearer

Lelia Morris

- 1 Nearer, still nearer— close to Thy heart,
draw me, my Savior, so precious Thou art;
fold me, O fold me close to Thy breast;
shelter me safe in that Haven of Rest.
- 2 Nearer, still nearer— nothing I bring,
naught as an off'ring to Jesus, my King—
only my sinful, now contrite heart;
grant me the cleansing Thy blood doth impart.
- 3 Nearer, still nearer— Lord, to be Thine,
sin with its follies I gladly resign—
all of its pleasures, pomp and its pride;
give me but Jesus, my Lord crucified.
- 4 Nearer, still nearer— while life shall last,
till safe in glory my anchor is cast;
through endless ages, ever to be
nearer, my Savior, still nearer to Thee.

THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Gracious God, in Christ you bring people from near and far into the fellowship of your church. Open our eyes to your saving plan, and move us to embrace all who seek your salvation so that we may rejoice together at the banquet of your love; 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 15:1, 6-8

Through Isaiah the LORD told the world that all God-fearing people would have a place in the house of his Church.

¹This is what the LORD says:

“Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed.

⁶And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant—

⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer.

Their burnt offerings and sacrifices

will be accepted on my altar;

for my house will be called

a house of prayer for all nations.”

⁸The Sovereign LORD declares—

he who gathers the exiles of Israel:

“I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered.”

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm of the Day: Let the People Praise You, O God

Psalm 67D

A vocalist will sing the first refrain and the verses. The congregation may join in the remaining refrains and the "Glory be".

Refrain



Let the peo - ple praise you, O God, let all the peo - ple praise you.

May God be gracious to us and / bless us
and make his face / shine on us—
so that your ways may be / known on earth,
your salvation among all / nations.
May the peoples / praise you, God;
may all the peoples / praise you.
May the nations be glad and / sing for joy,
for you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations/of the earth.

Refrain

The land yields its / harvest;
God, our God, / blesses us.
May God / bless us still,
so that all the ends of the earth will / fear him.
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 9:1-5

Paul shares his godly sorrow for those who have experienced the grace of God and still reject it.

¹I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit—²I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, ⁴the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. ⁵Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Ephesians 2:13



Refrain



But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away
have been brought near by the blood of Christ. **Refrain**

Gospel

Matthew 15:21-28

In the face of a test from Jesus, a Canaanite woman demonstrates great faith in God's promise for all people.

²¹Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²²A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly."

²³Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us."

²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."

²⁵The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said.

²⁶He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

²⁷"Yes it is, Lord," she said. "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table."

²⁸Then Jesus said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed at that moment.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Be seated.

Children's Devotion

Hymn: The Church's One Foundation

CW 855 sts. 1-3, 5



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth;
3 The Church shall nev - er per - ish. Her dear Lord, to de - fend,
5 Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the Word.
her char - ter of sal - va - tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
to guide, sus - tain, and cher - ish, is with her to the end.
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
One ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
Tho' there be those that hate her and strive to see her fail,
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es, with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
a - gainst both foe and trai - tor she ev - er shall pre - vail.
and the great Church vic - to - rious shall be the Church at rest.

Sermon

Based on Romans 9

"There is no substitute for Jesus!"

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.

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.

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: Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head

CW 861 sts. 1, 4



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Church's head, you are her one foun-
4 And for your gos - pel let us dare to sac - ri - fice all



da - tion; in you she trusts, be - fore you bows, and waits for
treasure; teach us to bear your bless - ed cross, to find in



your sal - va - tion. Built on this rock se - cure, your Church
you all plea - sure. O grant us stead - fast - ness in joy



shall en - dure though all the world de - cay and all things
and dis - tress. Lord, for your mer - cy's sake, let us by



pass a - way. O hear, O hear us, Je - sus!
grace par - take of end - less joy and glo - ry.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

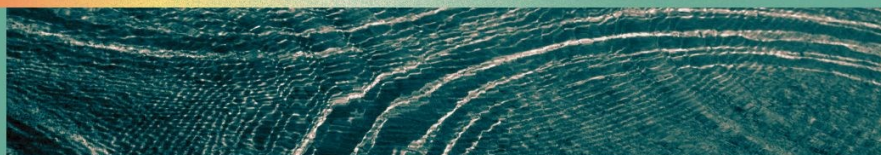
Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy fellowship in the entry between services.
19-Minute Bible study on Luke 19 begins at 10:15 in the sanctuary.

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Unexpected Truths: The Son of Man is God
Bible Readings: Exodus 34:5-9, Romans 10:5-13, Matthew 16:13-20
Hymns: 856, 563, 665, 782

BEYOND TEMPLE WALLS



On September 13, we're kicking off "Beyond the Temple Walls" — a four-week sermon series tracing the biblical theme of the temple, from Eden to the New Jerusalem, and asking what it means to be God's people not confined to a building, but sent beyond its walls. A companion Bible study begins the following Sunday, September 20, to dig deeper into each week's theme.

This series marks the start of our congregation's Year of Discipleship, shaping a culture where membership means living the Christian life seven days a week: nurturing relationships in our homes, on late nights when someone is lonely or struggling, and making a tangible impact in our community and world, far beyond our church's physical location. We're excited to see where God is going to send our ministry efforts this year, and we want every member to have a hand in it.

Join us for our Annual Ministry Fair: September 13, at 9:15 am. This is the one time each year you can see all of Salem's ministries in one place. Come learn how members serve, meet the people who lead our ministries, and find where your own gifts might fit. If you've noticed a need in our congregation or community, this is the perfect time to talk it over with our leaders and figure out how to bring your gifts to the work ahead.

More details are coming as we get closer, but plan to be there on September 13!

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.**

