

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 29-30, 2026



UNEXPECTED TRUTHS



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: Savior Jesus, you led the way to salvation by willingly enduring the worst possible suffering. Even then you rose from the dead to give us a hope that no evil can overcome. Grant me your Spirit to lead me through the sorrows of life with inexpressible joy in the hope you won forever. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: Some churches teach that God blesses his followers by granting prosperity and peace. Today we see how false that expectation is. The Bible explains that if we are part of the Church of God, the opposite is true - we will bear extra crosses for our faith. Believers suffer in this world, sometimes just because they are believers. We carry our crosses in gratitude for Jesus carrying his cross, one too heavy for us because it was weighted down with our sin. We carry our crosses because we know that in those moments of struggle, we are forced to turn to Christ and rely on his strength. This is the unexpected path, the one Jesus himself walked: the cross comes before the crown.

WORSHIP SERIES: The most important truths in the Bible are not self-evident at all. 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 JonAlden Pedersen Piano: Abigail Ibsch

Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting Two



Hymn: Your Days and Ways to God Surrender

CW 806



1 Your days and ways to God sur - ren - der, and let his
2 Why do you wal - low in this wor - ry? Why tight - ly
3 Wait for his hand to write your sto - ry, his gra - cious
4 Then wake with joy and ex - pec - ta - tion, for God is



wis - dom be your light. He stands be - side you, strong but
clutch this pain and fear? Do you for - get that on this
will, your des - ti - ny. What looks like gloom he turns to
good and heav'n is sure. Sing, pray, and work in your vo -



ten - der, and guides your steps thro' storm and night. Up - on a
jour - ney you're not a - lone? Your God is near! The man - y
glo - ry; what's hid - den now he will re - veal. Who holds your
ca - tion, and sleep in peace, your heart se - cure. Sur - ren - der



rock you build your life when you re - ly on Je - sus Christ.
mid-night tears you spill just make the dark-ness dark - er still.
fu - ture and your past knows what you need be - fore you ask.
all to his good grace; he keeps you safe in his em-brace.

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: Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded Baptism when he said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

All of us are born into this world with a deep need for Baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. In Baptism, he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. We recall what Baptism means for our daily lives:

C: Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

M: As baptized children of God, we confess our sins:

**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: God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit and united us to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Every day God forgives your sins, removes your guilt, and strengthens you to defeat Satan's power. His promise is for you and your children, and he will never forsake you. Your sins are forgiven. You are clothed with Christ. You are at peace with God now and forever.

C: Amen.

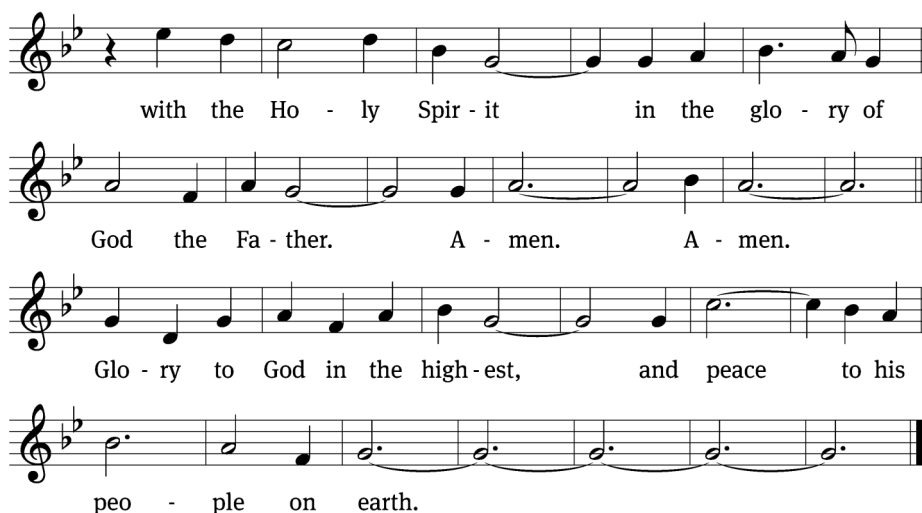
Glory to God in the Highest

CW 176

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the melody. The second staff continues the melody and includes the lyrics 'Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his'. The third staff continues the melody and includes the lyrics 'peo - ple on earth. Lord God,'. The fourth staff continues the melody and includes the lyrics 'heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we'. The score ends with a double bar line.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, 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. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
 peace to his peo - ple on earth.
 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.
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his
 peo - ple on earth. 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,



(Sunday) Sacrament of Baptism

The Rite of Baptism continues at the font at the 10:30am service.

M: The Gospel according to St. Mark: *"People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them."*

The minister applies water to the person presented for baptism as he says:

M: Rune Ragnar Engman, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart ✝ to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit and has forgiven all your sins. May he strengthen you with his grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

(Sunday) Exhortation to Parents & Congregation

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Our Lord commands that we teach his precious truths to all who are baptized. Christian love therefore urges all of us, especially parents and sponsors, to

assist in whatever manner possible so that Rune and all the children of our church may remain children of God until death. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility, then answer: Yes, as God gives me strength.

C: Yes, as God gives me strength.

M: Let us pray.

We give thanks, most merciful Father, that you have received Rune as your own child and made him a member of Christ's body, the church. Now, we pray, grant to him and to all your church on earth that, being dead to sin, we may live to righteousness and, being buried with Christ into his death, we may also share in his resurrection, so that, with all your saints, we may inherit eternal life; through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

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, your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow him wherever he leads; 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

Jeremiah 15:15-21

When Jeremiah complained about carrying his cross, the Lord called on him to repent and promised salvation.

¹⁵LORD, you understand; remember me and care for me.

Avenge me on my persecutors.

You are long-suffering—do not take me away;
think of how I suffer reproach for your sake.

¹⁶When your words came, I ate them;
they were my joy and my heart's delight,
for I bear your name, LORD God Almighty.

¹⁷I never sat in the company of revelers, never made merry with them;
I sat alone because your hand was on me
and you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unending and my wound grievous and incurable?
You are to me like a deceptive brook, like a spring that fails.

¹⁹Therefore this is what the LORD says:

“If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me;
if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be my spokesman.
Let this people turn to you, but you must not turn to them.

²⁰I will make you a wall to this people, a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you but will not overcome you,
for I am with you to rescue and save you,” declares the LORD.

²¹“I will save you from the hands of the wicked and deliver you from
the grasp of the cruel.”

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm of the Day: Surely It Is God Who Saves Me

Psalm 31E

Refrain

Sure - ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and
not be a - fraid. For the LORD is my strong-hold and my
sure de - fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

In you, LORD, I have taken / refuge;
let me never be / put to shame.

Be my rock of / refuge,
a strong fortress to / save me.

Into your hands I commit my / spirit;
deliver me, LORD, my / faithful God. ***Refrain***

My times are / in your hands;
save me in your un- / failing love.

How abundant are the / good things
that you have stored up for those who / fear you.
Be strong and / take heart,
all you who hope / in 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

Romans 8:18-25

No cross can compare with the crown of glory that is waiting.

¹⁸I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 8:34



Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves
and take up their cross and follow me. **Refrain**

Gospel

Matthew 16:21-26

Jesus calls his Church to walk in his path. First comes the cross, then comes the crown.

²¹From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

²²Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

²³Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

²⁶What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Be seated.

Children's Devotion



Hymn of the Day: Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

CW 694



1 Je - sus, I my cross have tak - en, all to leave and
 2 Let the world de - spise and leave me; they have left my
 3 Go, then, earth - ly fame and trea - sure! Come, dis - as - ter,
 4 Haste, my soul, from grace to glo - ry, armed by faith and



fol - low you; des - ti - tute, de-spised, for - sak - en, you on
 Sav - ior, too. Hu - man hearts and looks de - ceive me; you are
 scorn, and pain! In your ser - vice pain is plea - sure, with your
 winged by prayer; all but heav'n is tran - si - to - ry, God's own



earth once suf - fered, too. Per - ish ev - 'ry fond am - bi - tion,
 not, like them, un - true. And, since you have smiled up - on me,
 fa - vor loss is gain. I have called you Ab - ba, Fa - ther;
 hand shall guide you there. Soon shall end this earth - ly sto - ry,



all I've ev - er hoped or known; yet how rich is
 God of wis - dom, love, and might, foes may hate and
 you my all in all shall be. Storms may howl, and
 swift shall pass the pil - grim days, hope soon change to



my con - di - tion, God and heav'n are still my own!
 friends may shun me; show your face, and all is bright.
 clouds may gath - er, all must work for good to me.
 heav'n - ly glo - ry, faith to sight and prayer to praise.

Sermon

Based on Romans 8

Glory, Now?

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. Adult Bible study begins at 10:15 in the sanctuary.

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: I Am My Brother's Keeper

Bible Readings: Ezekial 33:7-11, Galatians 2:11-16, Matthew 18:15-20

Hymns: 839, 654, 877

THIS WEEK AT SALEM

Monday, 8/31

6:30 pm Spiritual Growth Committee

Tuesday, 9/1

9:00 am Hero's Coffee Club

6:00 pm Outreach Committee

Wednesday, 9/2

9:00 am Midweek Chapel

5:30 pm Evening Catechism

5:30 pm Praise Choir

6:15 pm Choir Practice

7:15 pm Men's Chorus

Thursday, 9/3

9:45 am Group Bible Study

11:00 am Women's Guild

11:30 am Parish Nurse Office Hours

Friday, 9/4

No School

Saturday, 9/5

5:00 pm Worship (Diethert Usher Team)

Sunday, 9/6

9:00 am Worship (Dodge Usher Team)

10:15 am Summer Bible Study

GIVING

Missions: \$10,440

Current: \$17,537.12

We pray God leads us to generous giving. Give online at salemlutheran.org/give.

IN OUR PRAYERS

- Our families who have college-aged children.
- Those who donate their time or resources to support the sick in Africa. May Christ bring healing and the Gospel.
- For those who are suffering with incurable diseases. Lord heal them.

COMING SOON

Egg rolls for sale! Women from Immanuel Hmong Lutheran Church in St. Paul are taking orders for homemade eggrolls. Details and signup sheets are in the church entryway this weekend and next. Chicken and vegetarian options are available for \$20/dozen. Pickup is September 11th & 12th in the Fellowship Hall. All proceeds support the mission work of our sister church.

Join us Wednesday, September 2 for Salem Music Night! Open to all members 13+, whether you're experienced or new to singing. Connect with others while making music together. Schedule: 6:15-7:15 PM: Choir. 7:15-8:00 PM: Praise Group (Week 1,3), Women's Chorus (Week 2,4). 7:15-8:00 PM: Men's Chorus. 7:15-8:15 PM: Handbells. Questions? Email church@salemlutheran.org.

Salem is looking for a member interested in a paid bookkeeper position. The position requires about 10 hours per week with a flexible schedule. Duties include payroll, bill payments, bank reconciliations, and financial reporting in ParishSoft. Accounting experience and computer skills are required. To learn more, email Debbie Sinclair at finance@salemlutheran.org.

Bible Basics in September The next round of Salem's "Bible Basics" study begins Thursday, September 24th. In this 10 to 12-week study we cover the most important teachings of the Bible, as well as look for God's answers to questions participants bring themselves. If you would like to attend or want to invite someone you know to attend, please fill out this form, or contact Pastor Wolfe (rwolfe@salemlutheran.org).

Prayer Partners for Salem Kindergarteners are needed! We're looking for more members to join our prayer partners pen-pals program. Every quarter, the prayer partner will write a letter to the student, and the student will write back. It's a great way to pass on a lasting legacy of faith. Curious? Email coordinator Nicole Shopbell with questions at wileb011@umn.edu.

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.**

