NOVEMBER

15

2026

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

It's Time to Put Your Affairs in Order



Salem Lutheran Church & School - Stillwater, MN

14940 62nd St N | salemlutheran.org | 651-439-7831

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: Mighty God, one day you will stand on the earth to the praise of saints and angels. Until then, hear our praise on earth and keep us in your gracious care. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: When a person knows their death is approaching, they try to put their affairs in order for the sake of others. Knowing that Jesus' second coming is approaching, there is work to do as well. The Bible tells us that Jesus carries out his good work through us. So until he comes again and says, "Stop!" we will be busy with faithful service. It's the beginning of the end, and we use our gifts and talents for God's glory.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe Piano: Abigail Ibisch
Choir Director: Luke Dorn Handbells Director: Jessie Wolfe
Praise Group: Marilyn Tomfohrde, Leah Bergemann, Al Sehloff, Andy Aumann, Jessie Wolfe, Tom Stob, Jacob Olson, Luke Dorn, Nathan Enter, Brian Shult

SACRED RHYTHM, THE WAY WE WORSHIP: Pastors at Salem generally wear a white robe (called an ***alb***) when leading worship. The robe is intended to take the focus off the man and shift the focus to God. The pastor's calling from God is not to speak to his own words or opinions, but the very words of God. The white robe also connects to the symbolism of the book of Revelation, in which believers wear white robes of Jesus' righteousness. The colored cloth worn over the alb is called a ***stole.*** The stole symbolizes the "yoke" of service placed on a pastor and its color changes with the colors of the church year.

Whether this is your first Sunday or your fiftieth, we're glad you're here. ***Scan the code*** *to check in on the Salem app, share a prayer request, and learn more about our church, including what's happening this week and how to get connected.*

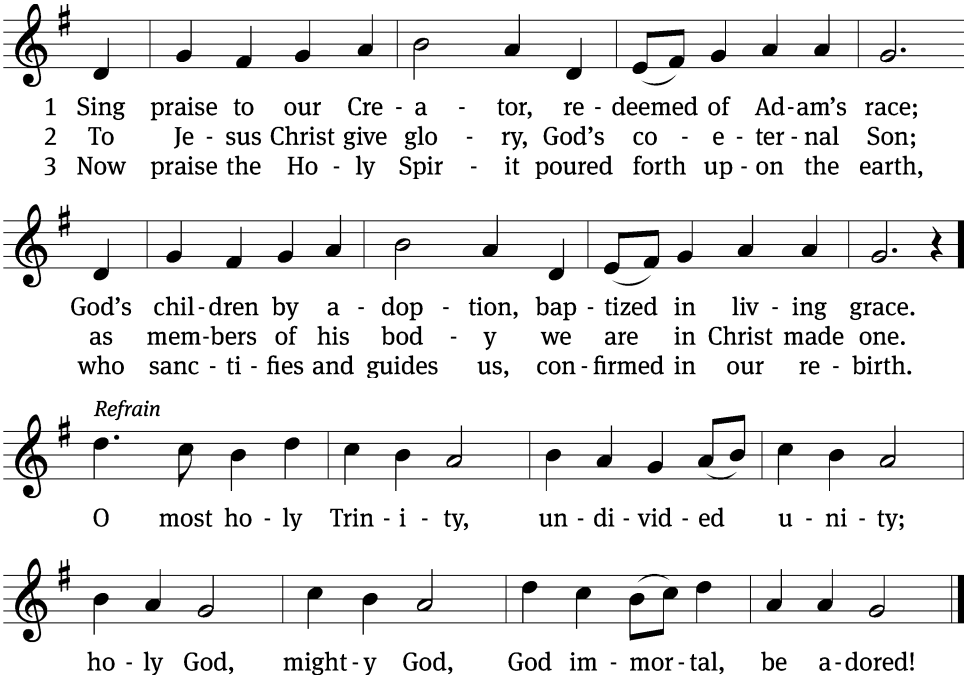
Connect Card

Questions? Ask an usher or anyone nearby. We're happy to help! More information, including accessibility and family resources, is on the back page.

Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting Three

Hymn: Sing Praise to Our Creator CW 480



Please stand.

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the ┼ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Congregation: Amen.

Confession CW 189

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.

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 ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Praise Response: Yet Not I but through Christ in Me

Leaders sing stanzas 1 and 3. The congregation sings stanzas 2 & 4.

Praise Group

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer, there is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom, my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus, for my life is wholly bound to His
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing, "All is mine", yet not I, but through Christ in me

All

The night is dark but I am not forsaken, for by my side, the Saviour He will stay
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing, for in my need, His power is displayed
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me, through the deepest valley He will lead
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome, yet not I, but through Christ in me

Praise Group

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven, the future sure, the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon, and He was raised to overthrow the grave
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated, Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released, I can sing, "I am free", yet not I, but through Christ in me

All

With every breath I long to follow Jesus, for He has said that He will bring me home
And day by day I know He will renew me, until I stand with joy before the throne
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus, all the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat, yet not I, but through Christ in me

M: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.
Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us steadfast in true and living faith, and present us at last holy and blameless before you; 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 1:10-18

Although Old Testament Israel responded to God's gifts with grudging service, God remained faithful to his promises

10 Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom;
listen to the instruction of our God, you people of Gomorrah!
11 "The multitude of your sacrifices— what are they to me?" says the LORD.
"I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals;
I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats.
12 When you come to appear before me,
who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts?
13 Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me.
New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations— I cannot bear your worthless assemblies.
14 Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals I hate with all my being.
They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them.
15 When you spread out your hands in prayer, I hide my eyes from you;
even when you offer many prayers, I am not listening.

Your hands are full of blood!

16 Wash and make yourselves clean.
Take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong.
17 Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed.
Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.

18 "Come now, let us settle the matter," says the LORD.
"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

M: The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day Psalm 128

Read responsively with the pastor.

M: [1]Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in obedience to him.
C: **[2]You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours.**

M: [3]Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house;
your children will be like olive shoots around your table.
C: **[4]Yes, this will be the blessing for the man who fears the LORD.**

M: [5]May the LORD bless you from Zion;
may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.
C: **[6]May you live to see your children's children— peace be on Israel.**

Second Reading Romans 12:1-8

With God's mercy in view, we use God's gifts faithfully in joyful response.

[1]Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. [2]Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

[3]For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. [4]For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, [5]so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. [6]We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; [7]if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; [8]if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

M: The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Revelation 2:10



Refrain





Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.
Refrain

Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

Through a parable, Jesus calls his followers to faithful service.

14 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his
wealth to them. 15 To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag,
each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. 16 The man who had received five bags
of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. 17 So also, the one
with two bags of gold gained two more. 18 But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a
hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.
20 The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you
entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'

21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few
things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

22 "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two
bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'

23 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few
things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

24 "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you
are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not
scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what
belongs to you.'

[26]"His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? [27]Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

[28]" 'So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. [29]For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. [30]And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

M: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day: O God, Your Hand the Heavens Made CW 751



Sermon

Based on Romans 12:1-8

"The Only Right Way to Worship"

Please stand after the sermon.

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 QR code on the screen or in the folder. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.

We ask all attendees to "check in" using the code on the back of the folder or by filing out the paper card in the pew and putting it in the basket on the rear table as you leave. Please share your prayer requests so that we can pray for you.

Give Online

(Sunday) Handbell Offertory

God's Own Child I Gladly Say It
Arr. John A Behnke

Please stand after the offering.

Prayer of the Church

M: Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

C: Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.

M: The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

C: Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

M: Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

C: Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

M: Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

C: Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

M: Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

C: Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

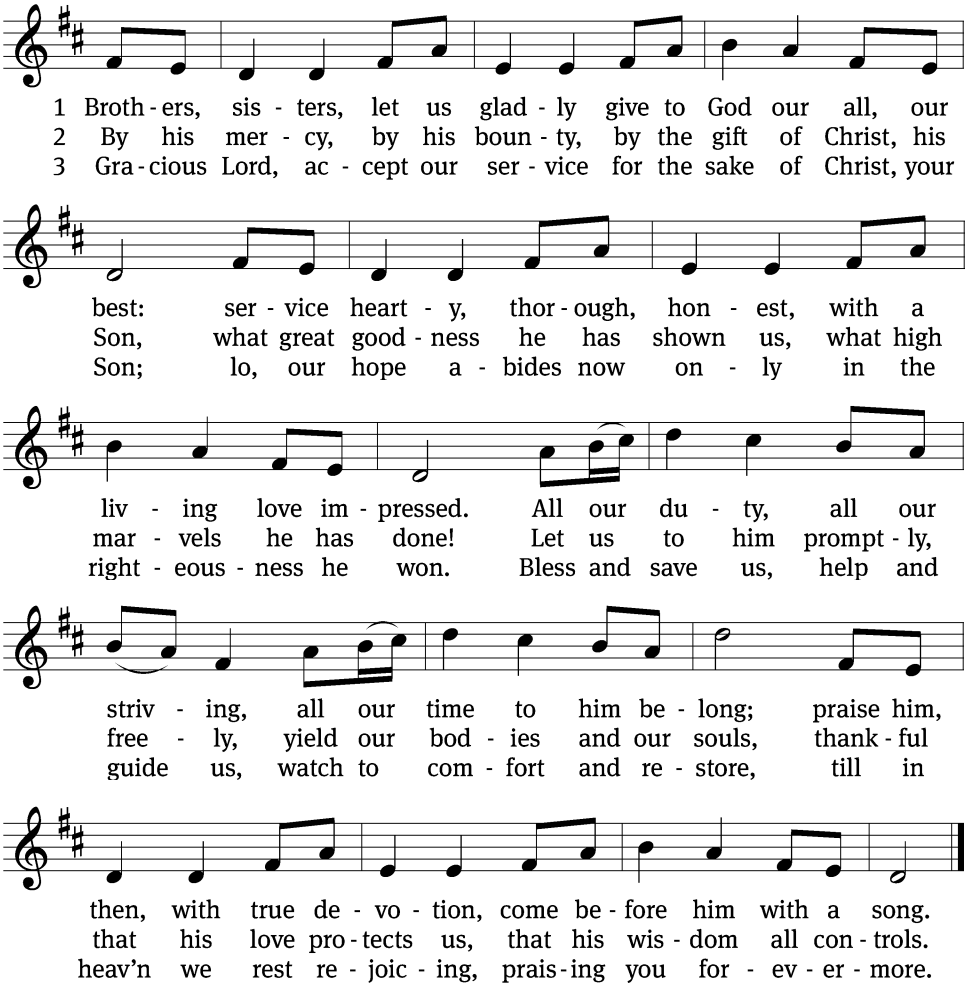
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

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: Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly CW 748



Silent Prayer and Announcements

WELS Connection

Acknowledgments
Setting Three from Christian Worship
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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 and School

Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may grow in grace and faith to share eternity.

WELS Christ's Love, Our Calling.