





Define Christian— The Christian loves God above all

**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:** Gracious Holy Spirit, you come to us through your Word to create pure hearts within us and to renew our strength to serve. Bless our praise today and help us live lives of holiness. Amen.
- **THEME OF THE DAY:** Not all love is good. It is self-destructive to love bad things. However, it is just as harmful to love good things in a bad order. For example, it would seem to be a good thing that a man loves his dog. But if he loves his dog more than he loves his wife, his "love" for both is disordered. That is not in the best interests of the man, his wife, or even his dog. For love to be healthy, it needs to be properly ordered.

The Christian understands that everything in this present world is temporary. God's love, however, is eternal. He promises the Christian everlasting life. And so the Christian struggles not simply to avoid loving bad things. The Christian struggles to love God above all other good things too.

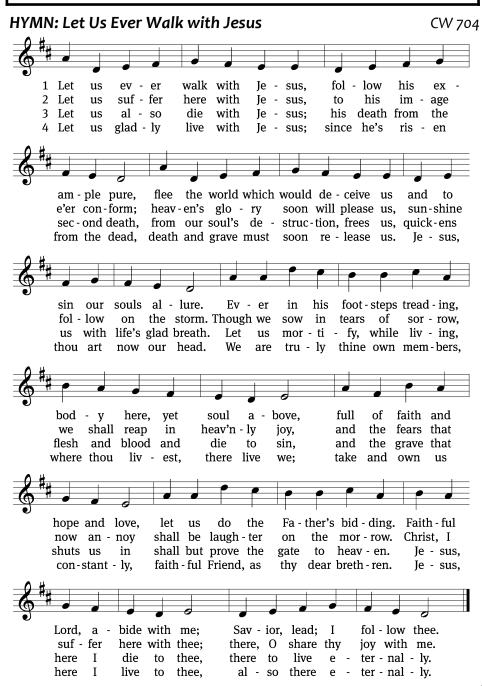
**WORSHIP SERIES:** "What is a Christian?" Human answers may vary, but in this series we see Christ himself define who Christians are and what they do. We are reminded that people could sometimes look at our behavior and assume we were unbelievers. Throughout this series though, Jesus shows us that ultimately a Christian is not a "good person" who never sins, but rather a sinner who runs to the perfect Christ for forgiveness. But in a mystery of grace, as we receive the mercy of Christ, it moves us to work toward a life that better fits Christ's beautiful definition. God blesses us with faith in Christ for heaven, and faithfulness to Christ on earth.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US: Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe Piano: Jessica Klatt

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**Order of Worship** 



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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: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.
- C: Amen.



### Glory Be to God (Gloria in Excelsis)



### THE WORD OF GOD

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

### Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

God of all power and might, you are the giver of all that is good. Help us love you with all our heart, strengthen us in true faith, provide us with all we need, and keep us safe in your care; 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**

Exodus 32:15-29

While Moses is with God on Mt. Sinai, the Israelites fall into idol worship

<sup>15</sup>Moses turned and went down the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands. They were inscribed on both sides, front and back. <sup>16</sup>The tablets were the work of God; the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets.

<sup>17</sup>When Joshua heard the noise of the people shouting, he said to Moses, "There is the sound of war in the camp."

<sup>18</sup>Moses replied:

"It is not the sound of victory,

it is not the sound of defeat;

it is the sound of singing that I hear."

<sup>19</sup>When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. <sup>20</sup>And he took the calf the people had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it.

<sup>21</sup>He said to Aaron, "What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?"

<sup>22</sup>"Do not be angry, my lord," Aaron answered. "You know how prone these people are to evil. <sup>23</sup>They said to me, 'Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has

happened to him.' <sup>24</sup>So I told them, 'Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.' Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!"

<sup>25</sup>Moses saw that the people were running wild and that Aaron had let them get out of control and so become a laughingstock to their enemies. <sup>26</sup>So he stood at the entrance to the camp and said, "Whoever is for the LORD, come to me." And all the Levites rallied to him.

<sup>27</sup>Then he said to them, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Each man strap a sword to his side. Go back and forth through the camp from one end to the other, each killing his brother and friend and neighbor.'" <sup>28</sup>The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about three thousand of the people died. <sup>29</sup>Then Moses said, "You have been set apart to the LORD today, for you were against your own sons and brothers, and he has blessed you this day."

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

### Second Reading

1 Timothy 6:11-16

*St. Paul describes the man of God in action, struggling to love God above all things.* 

<sup>11</sup>But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. <sup>12</sup>Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. <sup>13</sup>In the sight of God, who gives life to everything, and of Christ Jesus, who while testifying before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you <sup>14</sup>to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup>which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, <sup>16</sup>who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

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

Please stand.

### Gospel

Jesus calls us to love him above all—more than family or friends, more than personal safety, and even life itself.

<sup>34</sup>"Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup>For I have come to turn

" 'a man against his father, a daughter against her mother,

a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law-

<sup>36</sup>a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.'

<sup>37</sup>"Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. <sup>38</sup>Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup>Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

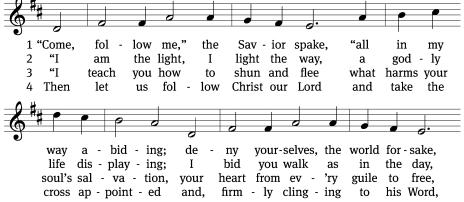
<sup>40</sup>"Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup>Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. <sup>42</sup>And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."

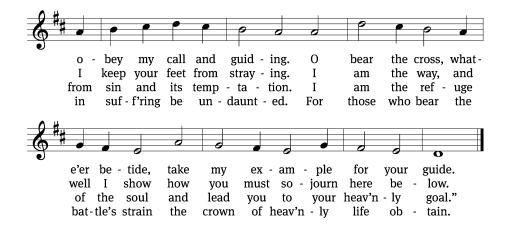
- M: The Gospel of the Lord.
- C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

## **Children's Devotion**

Hymn of the Day: Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake CW 702





### Sermon

Based on Exodus 32:15-29

"Loving God is Number One!"

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.

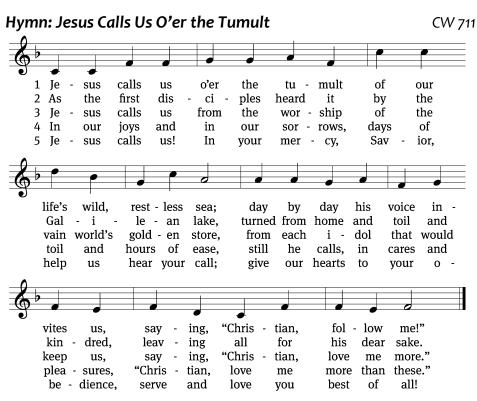


Please stand.

## 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.



- 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.



### Silent Prayer and Announcements

#### Acknowledgments

Setting Four from Christian Worship

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#### For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Define Christian—The Christian finds rest in Jesus Bible Readings: Exodus 33:12-23; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:25-30 Hymns: 818, 833, 706, 834

# 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** are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance. Both men's and women's restrooms are equipped with **diaper changing tables** for your convenience.
- ★ Our sanctuary is equipped with an amplified "loop" system for hearing assistance. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position.
- You will find a connection card in your pew. We ask members and guests to share their names and contact info, and invite you to share requests for contact or prayers.
- 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.

## FOR THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing and pray and grow with us in our services. Please note these special worship aids and helps for families:

- ★ Children's bulletins & "quiet bags" for your child's use in worship 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 to be nursed or quieted for a few moments you can use our "cry room" down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is shown live on a TV in the room.
- Sunday mornings, before the hymn of the day and sermon, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for a short devotion on God's Word. Parents may accompany their children as they wish.

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.

