

February 24-25, 2024

Rethinking Religion



Suffering Under the Cross



Salem Lutheran

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Second Sunday after Lent



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*Rethinking Religion— Rethinking Suffering
Under the Cross*

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, thank you for bringing me once again to this house of peace and rest. Bless me through your word and fill my heart with joyful praise at the good news of forgiveness. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: Scripture uses the term "cross" to refer not only to the instrument of Jesus' death, but also for any suffering that a believer endures because of their faith. Today, Jesus asks us to rethink suffering under the cross. It is not pointless pain. Our crosses are not how we pay for sin - Jesus already did that on his cross. Our crosses are good, a way Christ connects us to himself with fire-tested faith.

WORSHIP SERIES: Everyone makes assumptions about God. Likewise, everyone makes assumptions about religion. Increasingly, those assumptions are negative. Do we know the truth about our faith well enough to answer the questions of those who don't understand Christianity? In this year's Lenten season we turn to Jesus to see what Christian faith is truly all about. We let him replace our own assumptions with truth. Jesus, help us to rethink religion!

A WORD ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION: Our church observes the biblical practice of member communion (also called close communion). In Holy Communion we not only receive forgiveness from God, but we also express the unique relationship our members have with each other. If you are not a member of our congregation, we kindly ask that you not take communion today, but speak with our pastor after the service. We would love to share the sacrament with you in the future.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Guest Preacher: Pastor Jon Enter

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Piano: Paige Reiners

Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting Four



Hymn: 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.

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.

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, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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

Job 1:13-22

Job is given a heavy cross, but it does not crush his faith. Instead, God uses Job's cross to move Job to worship and praise the LORD.

¹³One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, ¹⁴a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, ¹⁵and the Sabeans attacked and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" ¹⁶While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the heavens and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

¹⁷While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, “The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!” ¹⁸While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, “Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother’s house, ¹⁹when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

²⁰At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship ²¹and said:

“Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.”

²²In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(10:30 am) Salem Choir

His Robes for Mine

Chris Anderson and Greg Habbegger

His robes for mine: O wonderful exchange!
Clothed in my sin, Christ suffered ‘neath God’s rage.
Draped in His righteousness, I’m justified.
In Christ I live, for in my place He died.

Refrain I cling to Christ and marvel at the cost:
Jesus forsaken, God estranged from God.
Bought by such love, my life is not my own:
My praise my all shall be for Christ alone.

His robes for mine: what cause have I for dread?
God’s daunting law Christ mastered in my stead.
Faultless I stand, with righteous works not mine,
Saved by my Lord’s vicarious death and life.

His robes for mine: God’s justice is appeased.
Jesus is crushed, and thus the Father’s pleased.
Christ drank God’s wrath on sin, then cried
‘Tis done! Sin’s wage is paid; propitiation won. *Refrain*

His robes for mine: such anguish none can know.
Christ, God’s belov’d, condemned as though His foe.
He, as though I, accursed and left alone;
I, as though He, embraced and welcomed home! *Refrain*

Second Reading

Romans 5:1-11

St. Paul teaches that God works through our suffering to shape our Christian character and to lead us to cling to Christ's gracious promises.

¹Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel

Mark 8:31-38

Jesus teaches of the absolute necessity of the cross, both his and ours.

³¹He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³²He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

³³But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

³⁴Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶What good is it

for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? ³⁷Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ³⁸If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Be seated.

Children's Devotion

Hymn of the Day: Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

CW 817



1 Lord, thee I love with all my heart; I pray thee,
2 Yea, Lord, 'twas thy rich boun - ty gave my bod - y,
3 Lord, let at last thine an - gels come, to A-br'ham's



ne'er from me de - part, with ten - der mer - cy cheer me.
soul, and all I have in this poor life of la - bor.
bos - om bear me home that I may die un - fear - ing;



Earth has no plea - sure I would share; yea, heav'n it -
Lord, grant that I in ev - 'ry place may glo - ri -
and in its nar - row cham - ber keep my bod - y



self were void and bare if thou, Lord, wert not near me.
fy thy lav - ish grace and help and serve my neigh - bor.
safe in peace - ful sleep un - til thy re - ap - pear - ing.



And should my heart for sor - row break, my trust in thee can
Let no false doc - trine me be - guile; let Sa - tan not my
And then from death a - wak - en me that these mine eyes with



noth- ing shake. Thou art the por- tion I have sought; thy pre- cious
soul de- file. Give strength and pa- tience un- to me to bear my
joy may see, O Son of God, thy glo- rious face, my Sav- ior



blood my soul has bought. Lord Je- sus Christ, my God and
cross and fol- low thee. Lord Je- sus Christ, my God and
and my fount of grace. Lord Je- sus Christ, my prayer at-



Lord, my God and Lord, for- sake me not! I trust thy Word.
Lord, my God and Lord, in death thy com- fort still af- ford.
tend, my prayer at- tend, and I will praise thee with- out end.

Sermon

Based on Job 1:13-22

“Losing Control”

Please stand after the sermon.

THANKSGIVING

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. 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.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. The meal also bears witness to the unity and fellowship we share with each other. Therefore, we invite to communion all those who share in our confession by virtue of their membership here or in a sister WELS or ELS congregation. We ask visitors to speak to the pastor before communing.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of might.



Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



na in the high - est, ho-san - na in the high - est!

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God

The musical score is written in a single system with eight staves. Each staff contains a line of music in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first staff is a short melodic phrase. The second and third staves form the first phrase: 'O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.' The fourth and fifth staves form the second phrase: 'O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.' The sixth and seventh staves form the third phrase: 'O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace.' The eighth staff is the final phrase: 'A - men. A - men.' The music uses various note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some notes beamed together. There are several slurs and ties used throughout the piece.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

A - men. A - men.

Be seated.

Communion Distribution

For those who cannot have any alcohol for personal or medical reasons we offer white grape juice. You will find cups of white grape juice in the center of each communion tray. Gluten-free wafers are available by request for those medically unable to tolerate gluten.

Communicants may choose to receive the wine by individual or common cup. If you choose the common cup, please allow the individual tray to pass and then assist the minister by helping to tip the common cup.

Distribution Hymn: What God Ordains Is Always Good

CW 844



1 What God or-dains is al - ways good: his will is just and
2 What God or-dains is al - ways good: he nev - er will de -
3 What God or-dains is al - ways good: though I the cup am
4 What God or-dains is al - ways good: this truth re - mains un -



ho - ly. As he di - rects my life for me, I fol - low
ceive me; he leads me in his right - eous way and nev - er
drink - ing which sa - vors now of bit - ter - ness, I take it
shak - en. Though sor - row, need, or death be mine, I shall not



meek and low - ly. My God in - deed in ev - 'ry need knows
will he leave me. I take con - tent what he has sent; his
with - out shrink - ing. For af - ter grief God grants re - lief, my
be for - sak - en. I fear no harm, for with his arm he



well how he will shield me; to him, then, I will yield me.
hand that sends me sad - ness will turn my tears to glad - ness.
heart with com - fort fill - ing and all my sor - row still - ing.
will em - brace and shield me; so to my God I yield me.

Please stand at the pastor's direction.

Response of Thanksgiving

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **His mercy endures forever.**

Psalms 118:1

M: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: **We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

1 Corinthians 11:26

Closing Prayer & Blessing

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift.

We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of 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.

Be seated.

Hymn: Sent Forth by God's Blessing

CW 932 st. 1



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
the peo - ple of God from his dwell - ing take leave.
The sup - per is end - ed; O be now ex - tend - ed
the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
The seed of his teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls reach - ing,
shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
His grace did in - vite us; his love shall u - nite us
to work for God's king - dom and an - swer his call.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Acknowledgments

Setting Four from Christian Worship

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Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, Sunday JAM for children ages 3yrs to 6th grade starts at 9:15am in the kindergarten room. Adult Bible study begins at 9:15 in the fellowship hall downstairs.

For Worship Next Sunday

Worship theme: Rethinking Religion: Rethinking the Worth of Worship

Bible Readings: Exodus 20:1-17; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

Hymns: 912, 558, 637, 407



Midweek Lenten Services *(4pm & 6:30 pm, with a meal between services)*

February 28	Pastor Bob Beaver— Salem Woodbury
March 6	Pastor John Berg— Divinity, West St. Paul
March 13	Pastor Bob Edwards— Retired
March 20	Pastor Mark Wessel— Christ, North St. Paul

Palm Sunday

March 23	5:00 pm Worship with Communion
March 24	8 am & 10:30 am Worship with Communion

Maundy Thursday— March 28

6:30 pm Holy Thursday Worship with Communion

Good Friday— March 29

10:00 am Good Friday Worship
6:30 pm Good Friday Tenebrae

Easter Sunday— March 31 *(Breakfast served 8 am - 10:30 am)*

7:00 am Easter Dawn Worship with Communion
9:00 am Easter Festival Worship
10:45 am Easter Festival Worship

PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

(Also printed in the hymnal)

Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

A: *He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.*

Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

A: *I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?*

Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

A: *I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.*

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

A: *His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.*

Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

A: *In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.*

Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

A: *I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."*

Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

A: *I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.*

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.

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.

