



top-down
FAITH

THE DEVIL DOES HIS
WORST, YET JESUS
ALWAYS WINS



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Third Sunday after Pentecost

*A Top-Down Faith—The Devil Does His Worst,
Yet Jesus Always Wins*

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: Almighty Father, you hear our every prayer and know our every need. Bless us as we praise you today for all your goodness and hear the prayers we offer in our Savior's name. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: Look at our lives—the problems, the pains—and it's easy to conclude that we are losing. Look at the world—the brokenness, the hurts—and it's easy to believe that the devil is winning. It can lead a person to despair. God declared that enmity would prevail between the devil and mankind in this world, but he also promised that from humanity one would rise who would completely defeat the devil. Yes, the devil and his allies are doing their worst, but ultimately, Jesus wins. Always and forever.

OUR WORSHIP SERIES: The phrase “from the top down” often refers to a system where directions, thoughts, and practices flow from management down to others. Where the will and beliefs of those “at the top” are imposed—sometimes aggressively—on those below. Christian teachings come “from the top down,” but not that those teachings are oppressively imposed on us. When we call Christianity a “top-down faith,” we mean that God tells us things so beautiful and good that they could only have come from him.

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:

Preacher: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Piano: Madison Boerner

Soloist: Alli Dorn

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Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting One



Hymn: All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall

CW 556 sts. 1-4



1 All man-kind fell in Ad - am's fall; one com - mon
2 Through all our pow'rs cor - rup - tion creeps and us in
3 From hearts de - praved, to e - vil prone, flow thoughts and
4 But Christ, the sec - ond Ad - am, came to bear our



sin in - fects us all. From one to all the
dread - ful bond - age keeps; in guilt we draw our
deeds of sin a - lone; God's im - age lost, the
sin and woe and shame, to be our life, our



curse de - scends, and o - ver all God's wrath im - pends.
in - fant breath and reap its fruits of woe and death.
dark - ened soul nor seeks nor finds its heav'n - ly goal.
light, our way, our on - ly hope, our on - ly stay.

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: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

C: **Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.** (*Psalm 32*)

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: **Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.**

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

And we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

M: God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

C: Amen.

Hymn: All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall

CW 556 sts. 5-6

5 As by one man all man - kind fell and, born in
6 We thank you, Christ; new life is ours, new light, new
sin, was doomed to hell, so by one Man, who
hope, new strength, new pow'rs. This grace our ev - 'ry
took our place, we all were jus - ti - fied by grace.
way at - tend un - til we reach our jour - ney's end.

THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, your Son Jesus triumphed over the prince of demons and freed us from bondage to sin. Help us to stand firm against every assault of Satan, and enable us always to do your will; 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

Genesis 3:8-15

The devil did his worst, but a gracious God promised that from Eve's descendants would come one who would defeat the serpent for us.

⁸Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

¹⁰He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

¹¹And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

¹²The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock
and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly
and you will eat dust
all the days of your life.

¹⁵And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel."

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Revelation 20:1-6

God had promised victory in the Garden. Jesus allows St. John to see that victory in his Revelation.

¹And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. ²He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. ³He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

⁴I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. ⁵(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. ⁶Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel

Mark 3:20-35

Jesus came to oppose Satan and his allies and undo all their work.

²⁰Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. ²¹When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."

²²And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons."

²³So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. ²⁶And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. ²⁷In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man's house. ²⁸Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, ²⁹but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin."

³⁰He said this because they were saying, "He has an impure spirit."

³¹Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. ³²A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you."

³³"Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked.

³⁴Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Children's Devotion

Hymn: Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You

CW 871



1 Rise! To arms! With prayer em - ploy you, O Chris-tians, lest the
2 Cast a - far this world's vain plea - sure and bold - ly strive for
3 Je - sus, all your chil - dren cher - ish, and keep them that they



foe de - stroy you, for Sa - tan has de - signed your fall.
heav'n - ly trea - sure. Be stead - fast in the Sav - ior's might.
nev - er per - ish whom you have pur - chased with your blood.



Wield God's Word, a weap-on glo - rious; a - gainst each foe you'll
Trust the Lord, who stands be - side you, for Je - sus from all
Let new life to us be giv - en that we may look to



be vic - to - rious, for God will set you o'er them all.
harm will hide you. By faith you'll con - quer in the fight.
you in heav - en when - ev - er fear - ful is our mood.



Fear not the prince of hell, here is Im - man - u - el!
Take cour - age, wea - ry soul! Look for - ward to the goal!
Your Spir - it on us pour that we may love you more,



Sing ho - san - na! The strong ones yield to Christ, our shield,
Joy a - waits you. The race, then, run; your bat - tle done,
hearts o'er - flow - ing; and then shall we, from sin set free,



and we as con - qu'rors hold the field.
the crown of glo - ry will be won.
sing praise through all e - ter - ni - ty.

“The devil’s worst is no match for God’s best”

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



 Connect Card

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.



 Give Online

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 promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. 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 heav - en-ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -
san - na, ho-san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he,
bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san-na in the high - est.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy". It consists of five staves of music in a single system, all written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en-ly hosts: heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho-san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san-na in the high - est." The music ends with a double bar line.

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



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.

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: The Tree of Life

CW 574



1 The tree of life with ev - 'ry good in E - den's
 2 The still - ness of that sa - cred grove was bro - ken
 3 What mer - cy God showed to our race, a plan of
 4 Now from that tree of Je - sus' shame flows life e -



ho - ly or - chard stood, and of its fruit so pure and
 as the ser - pent strove with tempt - ing voice Eve to be -
 res - cue by his grace, in send - ing One from wom - an's
 ter - nal in his name; for all who trust and will be -



sweet God let the man and wom - an eat. Yet in this
 guile and Ad - am too by sin de - file. O day of
 seed, the One to fill our great - est need— for on a
 lieve, sal - va - tion's liv - ing fruit re - ceive. And of this



gar - den al - so grew an - oth - er tree, of
 sad - ness when the breath of fear and dark - ness,
 tree up - lift - ed high his on - ly Son for
 fruit so pure and sweet the Lord in - vites the



which they knew; its love - ly limbs with fruit a -
 doubt and death, its aw - ful poi - son first dis -
 sin would die, would drink the cup of scorn and
 world to eat, to find with - in this cross of



dorned a - gainst whose eat - ing God had warned.
 played with - in the world so new - ly made.
 dread to crush the an - cient ser - pent's head!
 wood the tree of life with ev - 'ry good.

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.** *Psalm 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

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.**

Please find the closing hymn on the next page.



Hymn: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

CW 863 st. 3

3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill, all ea - ger to
de - vour us, we trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
they shall not o - ver - pow'r us. This world's
prince may still scowl fierce as he will,
he can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done;
one lit - tle word can fell him.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy fellowship in the entry between services. Adult Bible study begins at 10:15 in the fellowship hall downstairs

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: From the Tiniest Seed Grows the Largest Kingdom

Bible Readings: Ezekiel 17:22-24, Colossians 1:3-8, Mark 4:26-34

Hymns: 644, 859, 925

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 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 donate 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 you or your child needs a quiet space, you can use the fireside room down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is streamed live on a TV in the room.
- ✦ On Sunday mornings, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for the 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.**

