



  
**Salem Lutheran**  
**Church and School**

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## **Fourth Sunday After Pentecost**

*Top-Down Faith: From the tiniest seed grows  
the largest kingdom*

**W**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:** Savior Jesus, we thank you for your blessings in another week. Forgive us for our sins and bless us today in our worship. Send your spirit that we might praise you here and in the week ahead. Amen.

**THEME OF THE DAY:** Usually, kingdoms advance through military might or worldly wealth. It can be tempting to believe the same holds true in the kingdom of God. If only our churches were better led, better funded, better connected. Then the church would thrive! This way of thinking is breathtakingly wrong. Today God gives us the top-down truth that the kingdom of God advances in ways that don’t always make sense. Through something that seems insignificant to most—the gospel—the King of kings establishes his reign in human hearts. Jesus himself compared the gospel to a tiny seed. As the seed of the gospel is planted, the largest of all kingdoms grows.

**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.

### ***SERVING GOD, SERVING US:***

Preacher: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Piano/Organ: Abigail Ibisch

### **Fellowship & Spiritual Growth**

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

### **For Worship Next Week**

Worship theme: Top-Down Faith—God is with us through the storms of life

Bible Readings: Job 38:1-11; Acts 27:13-26; Mark 4:35-41

Hymns: 504, 501, 805, 874, 564

# Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting One



## Hymn: Almighty God, Your Word is Cast

CW 644



- 1 Al - might - y God, your Word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
- 2 Let not the foe of Christ and man this ho - ly seed re - move,
- 3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
- 4 When - e'er the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow



now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and right - eous fruits a - bound.  
but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.  
but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.  
that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

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.**

## **(Saturday) 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: Rorie EleLue Hubmer, 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.

## **(Saturday) 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 Rorie 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 Rorie as your own child and made her a member of Christ's body, the church. Now, we pray, grant to her 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.**

## **(Sunday) Vacation Bible School Anthem**

Our great God can do all things. x2

He is our almighty King. x2

Made the land and made the seas. x2

God made us so lovingly. x2

### *Refrain*

He made us to praise his name. He made us his word proclaims.

He made us to live set free. He made you and he made me.

We will love each other now. We know Jesus showed us how.

We are saved, our debt he paid. We are marvelously made.

God will fight for everyone. x2

He won't leave us all alone. x2

By our Savior life is won. x2

Glory to the three in one. x2 (*Refrain 2x*)

## **Song of Praise**

*From All that Dwell Below the Skies*

Arr. By Koiné

**From all that dwell below the skies, let the Creator's praise arise;**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Let the Redeemer's name be sung, through ev'ry land by ev'ry tongue.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**I know that my Redeemer lives; what comfort this sweet sentence gives!**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**A hymn of glory let us sing! New songs throughout the world shall ring:**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Your praise shall sound from shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no more.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Eternal are your mercies, Lord; eternal is your glorious Word.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**You are, while endless ages run, with Father and with Spirit one.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**I know that my Redeemer lives; what comfort this sweet sentence gives.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### **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, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit, help us to receive it with joy and bring forth fruits in faith, hope, and love; 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

Ezekiel 17:22-24

*Through the prophet Ezekiel, the Lord promised that the kingdom of God would grow large and strong, and provide safety and shelter for God's people.*

<sup>22</sup>“ This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I myself will take a shoot from the very top of a cedar and plant it; I will break off a tender sprig from its top-most shoots and plant it on a high and lofty mountain. <sup>23</sup>On the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it; it will produce branches and bear fruit and become a splendid cedar. Birds of every kind will nest in it; they will find shelter in the shade of its branches. <sup>24</sup>All the trees of the forest will know that I the LORD bring down the tall tree and make the low tree grow tall. I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish.

“ I the LORD have spoken, and I will do it. ”

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm of the Day: How Truly Blest Are They

Psalm 118 sts. 1-3



1 How tru - ly blest are they who shun the  
2 But make the law of God their stud - y  
3 They like a tree shall thrive with wa - ters



sin - ners' ways, a - mong their coun - sels  
and de - light a - mid the la - bors  
near the root. Fresh as the leaf their



nev - er stand, nor take the scorn - ers' place,  
of the day and watch - es of the night.  
name shall live; their works are heav'n - ly fruit.

## Second Reading

Colossians 1:3-8

*We thank God that the seed of the gospel is producing fruit throughout the whole world.*

<sup>3</sup>We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, <sup>4</sup>because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people— <sup>5</sup>the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel <sup>6</sup>that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. <sup>7</sup>You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, <sup>8</sup>and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

M: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gospel

Mark 4:26-34

*The kingdom grows when the seed is sown. The Word works.*

<sup>26</sup>He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup>Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. <sup>29</sup>As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come."

<sup>30</sup>Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. <sup>32</sup>Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."

<sup>33</sup>With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. <sup>34</sup>He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated.*



# Children's Devotion

## Hymn: Your Kingdom, O God, Is My Glorious Treasure

CW 859



1 Your king-dom, O God, is my glo - ri - ous trea - sure, my  
2 Your king-dom, O God, is a - live with the pow - er your  
3 Your king-dom, O God, is a field for the grow - ing of



pearl of in - com - p'ra - ble worth. Its val - ue ex -  
Word and your Spir - it be - stow. Like yeast, they af -  
seeds that your mer - cy has sown; but still in our



ceeds ev - 'ry stand - ard of mea - sure, sur - pass - ing the  
fect the whole mea - sure of flour, — en - a - bling your  
midst is the en - e - my sow - ing the weeds that im -



wealth of the earth. Lord, give me your grace and the  
king-dom to grow. Em - pow - er me, Lord, as I  
per - il your own. Sus - tain me, O Lord, till your



pow'r of the Spir - it to val - ue this trea - sure a -  
live your com - mis - sion, though hum - ble my ser - vice may  
day of re - turn - ing and har - vest me home - ward at



right that, nev - er al - lured by the world, I in -  
be, and bring ev - 'ry plant - ing to per - fect fru -  
last, to shine in the home - land that qui - ets all



her - it your king - dom of glo - ry and light.  
i - tion, a mus - tard seed grown to a tree.  
yearn - ing, where sor - row and dan - ger are past.

*“See gospel growth through God’s eyes”*

*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




 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

During the offering today we recognize members of Salem graduating from high school and college. God bless you now and in years to come!

*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.

## 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 What Has Now Been Sown

CW 925



1 On what has now been sown your bless - ing, Lord, be -  
2 To you our wants are known; from you are all our  
3 O grant that each of us now met be - fore you



stow; the pow'r is yours a - lone to make it  
pow'rs. Ac - cept what is your own and par - don  
here may meet to - geth - er thus when you and



spring and grow. O Lord, in grace the har - vest  
what is ours. Our prais - es, Lord, and prayers re -  
yours ap - pear and fol - low you to heav'n, our



raise and you a - lone shall have the praise!  
ceive and to your Word a bless - ing give.  
home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

## Silent Prayer and Announcements / WELS Connection

### Acknowledgments

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# WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

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## 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.**

