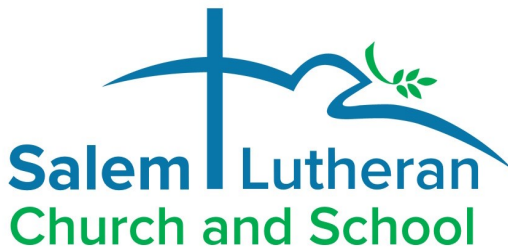




MEANINGFUL MINISTRY

*Not Glee and Gratitude but
Rejection and Resentment*



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Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

*Meaningful Ministry--Not Glee and Gratitude,
but Rejection and Resentment*

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: Holy Spirit, you are the quiet servant who calls us to faith, enlightens us with your gifts, and sanctifies us for holy living. Lead us to lives of humble service that we may glorify God in all we do. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: If ministry involves serving others with love and compassion, you would think that people would respond only with glee and gratitude for the help they receive. Sometimes, but not always. When our ministry efforts are met with rejection and resentment, we are in good company. The prophets, apostles, and even Jesus himself all had people respond negatively to their ministries. When that happens to us, it doesn't mean our ministry is no longer meaningful. Even if others do not appreciate our efforts to serve them, God still appreciates our efforts to serve him.

OUR WORSHIP SERIES: Ministry comes from the Latin word for "service." Ministry involves serving others with love, compassion, and empathy. Helping someone with physical needs is sometimes called "compassion ministry." Helping someone with their spiritual needs, sharing the good news of Christ, is generally called "gospel ministry." We misunderstand ministry if we think of it as something only pastors do. Ultimately every believer is called by God to reflect Christ-like love and share the message of salvation as God provides those opportunities. In this worship series we will see our efforts to meet the needs of those God brings into our sphere of influence as meaningful ministry. In our service to them, those people see God's love and God sees our faith. Our worship follows this pattern:

- 7/7 Ministry not with glee and gratitude, but rejection & resentment*
- 7/14 Meaningful Ministry: Sent with God's own authority*
- 7/21 Meaningful Ministry: Jesus models a compassionate shepherd's heart*
- 7/28 Meaningful Ministry: God meets our needs to meet others' needs*
- 8//4 Meaningful Ministry: Fear not, for the Lord is with you*

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Preacher: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Piano/Organ: Madison Boerner, Robyn Stoller

Vocalists: Jessie Wolfe, Chloe Wolfe

Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting One



Hymn: Preach You the Word

CW 895 sts. 1-3, 6



1 Preach you the Word and plant it home to those who
2 We know how hard, O Lord, the task your ser - vant
3 The sow - er sows; his reck - less love scat - ters a -
6 Preach you the Word and plant it home and nev - er



like or like it not, the Word that shall en -
bids us un - der - take: to preach your Word and
broad the good - ly seed, in - tent a - lone that
faint; the Har - vest Lord who gave the sow - er



ture and stand when flow'rs and mor - tals are for - got.
nev - er ask what pride - ful prof - it it may make.
there may be the whole - some loaves that peo - ple need.
seed to sow will watch and tend his plant - ed Word.

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.

Hymn: Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

CW 520



1 Oh, for a thou - sand tongues to sing my
2 My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as -
3 The name of Je - sus calms our fears and
4 He breaks the pow'r of can - celed sin; he



great Re - deem - er's praise, the glo - ries of my
sist me to pro - claim, to spread through all the
bids our sor - rows cease; 'tis mu - sic in the
sets the pris - 'ner free. His blood can make the



God and King, the tri - umphs of his grace!
earth a - broad, the hon - ors of your name.
sin - ner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace.
foul - est clean; his blood a - vails for me.

5 See all your sins on Jesus laid;
the Lamb of God was slain.
His life was once an off'ring made
that you might live again.

6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be ever, ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the Church in earth and heav'n.

THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Almighty, eternal and righteous God, you revealed your divine Word to teach us what we should do and what we should avoid. Strengthen and lead us by your Holy Spirit that we serve you in new obedience here until we come to complete holiness before you in that life to come; 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 2:1-7

The Lord sends Ezekiel to prophesy to the Israelites, knowing that most will not be grateful for the prophet's message but resentful.

¹He said to me, "Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you."

²As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me.

³He said: "Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me to this very day. ⁴The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn. Say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says.' ⁵And whether they listen or fail to listen—for they are a rebellious people—they will know that a prophet has been among them. ⁶And you, son of man, do not be afraid of them or their words. Do not be afraid, though briars and thorns are all around you and you live among scorpions. Do not be afraid of what they say or be terrified by them, though they are a rebellious people. ⁷You must speak my words to them, whether they listen or fail to listen, for they are rebellious.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: The LORD Is My Light and My Salvation

Psalm 27C

Refrain

The LORD is my light and my sal - va - tion— of
whom shall I be a - fraid, of whom shall I be a - fraid?

Hear my voice when I / call, LORD;
be merciful to me and / answer me.
Do not hide your / face from me,
do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my / helper.
Do not reject me or for- / sake me,
God my / Savior. *Refrain*

Though my father and mother for- / sake me,
the LORD will re- / ceive me.
I remain confi- / dent of this:
I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the / living.
Wait / for the LORD;
be strong and take heart and wait / for the LORD.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Second Reading

2 Timothy 2:1-13

St. Paul's ministry resulted in him being chained like a criminal. Yet God's Word cannot be chained.

¹You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ²And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. ³Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer. ⁵Similarly, anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules. ⁶The hardworking farmer should be the first to receive a share of the crops. ⁷Reflect on what I am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into all this.

⁸Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, ⁹for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. ¹⁰Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

¹¹Here is a trustworthy saying:

If we died with him,
we will also live with him;

¹²if we endure,
we will also reign with him.

If we disown him,
he will also disown us;

¹³if we are faithless,
he remains faithful,
for he cannot disown himself.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel

Mark 6:1-6

Many in Jesus' hometown rejected his ministry.

¹Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples.

²When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed.

"Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing?" ³Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him.

⁴Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home." ⁵He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. ⁶He was amazed at their lack of faith.

Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Children's Devotion

Hymn of the Day: God Has Spoken by His Prophets

CW 639



1 God has spo - ken by his proph - ets, spo - ken his un - chang - ing Word,
2 God has spo - ken by Christ Je - sus, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Son,
3 God is speak - ing by his Spir - it, speak - ing to our hearts a - gain,



each from age to age pro - claim - ing God, the one, the right - eous Lord.
bright - ness of the Fa - ther's glo - ry, with the Fa - ther ev - er one;
in the age - less Word de - clar - ing his own mes - sage, now as then.



In the world's de - spair and tur - moil one firm an - chor holds us fast:
spo - ken by the Word in - car - nate, God from God, be - fore time was;
Thro' the rise and fall of na - tions one sure faith is stand - ing fast:



God is King, his throne e - ter - nal, God the first and God the last.
Light from Light, to earth de - scend - ing, he re - veals our God to us.
God a - bides, his Word un - chang - ing, God the first and God the last.

Sermon

Based on Ezekiel 2:1-7

"Christian, stand and speak!"

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

M: Father in heaven, you sent your Son, our Lord Jesus, to bring peace and hope to our fallen world. Already in eternity you planned to overturn the tyranny of Satan and the ravages of sin and you kept your promises to restore the perfection of paradise.

C: **Lead us to cherish your great mercy and hold to it as our priceless treasure.**

M: Lord Jesus, Lamb of God, we praise and adore you for offering your perfect life and innocent death to redeem the world from death and hell. You proclaimed the good news that sins are forgiven and life with God is restored and you called your followers to share the gospel with all people.

C: **Make us bold and confident to be witnesses to family and friends we know and love.**

M: Holy Spirit, Lord, and giver of life, through Word and sacrament you create and strengthen faith that trusts the promise of the Father and the work of his Son. You break down the barriers of resistance and rejection and bring the lost into the family of God.

C: **Empower and encourage us to speak about Jesus to neighbors and acquaintances.**

M: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, move us by your great love to enter the mission fields near our homes and neighborhoods. Help us always to be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us to give the reason for the hope that we have.

C: **Guide us, strengthen us, and bless us as we share the love of Jesus. 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.

Hymn: Lift High the Cross

CW 900 sts. Ref-1, 3-4



Lift high the cross; the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,

3 Let ev - 'ry race and ev - 'ry lan - guage tell

4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:



our King vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
of him who saves our souls from death and hell.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

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.

Hymn: God Bless Our Native Land

CW 774



1 God bless our na - tive land; firm may she ev - er stand
2 For her our prayers shall rise to God a - bove the skies;



thro' storm and night! When the wild tem - pests rave, Rul - er of
on him we wait. Thou who art ev - er nigh, guard - ing with



wind and wave, do thou our coun - try save by thy great might.
watch - ful eye, to thee a - loud we cry: God save the state!

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Acknowledgments

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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 church sanctuary.

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Meaningful Ministry: Sent With God's Own Authority

Bible Readings: Amos 7:10-15; Titus 1:5-9; Mark 6:7-13

Hymns: 897, 898, 673, 640

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 exists to glorify God
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.**

