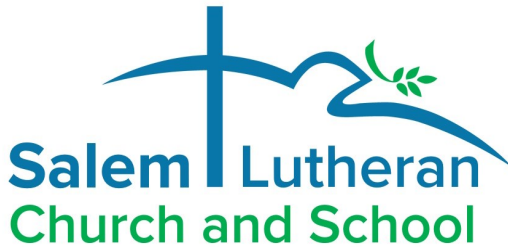




# THE NEED FOR FOLLOWERSHIP

Followers of Christ  
Obey From the Heart



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## **Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

*The Need for Followership—Followers of  
Christ Obey from the Heart*

**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:** Holy Spirit, come into our hearts through your Word today and bless us as we worship you. Renew us in Christ and sanctify us to follow you in all things.

**THEME OF THE DAY:** We sometimes follow rules and laws to avoid punishment or receive a reward. Following the speed limit. Paying our taxes. Eating our vegetables. God gives us laws to follow but our obedience to him comes from different motivation. Following Christ is not simply a matter of outward observance of laws. It is a matter of the heart. We see God's love behind God's laws. His heart affects our own. The followership Christ seeks flows from hearts that have been transformed by God's law and gospel. This week we see that followers of Christ obey his law from the heart.

**OUR WORSHIP SERIES:** Have you ever been a part of a group that needed better leadership? We become frustrated when politicians, management, or coaches don't lead well. Leadership is extremely important. Jesus Christ is the leader of our congregation, our home, our lives. His leadership is perfect in every way. Therefore, when things are wrong, what we need is not better leadership, but better followership. In this series, we ask Christ to empower us with his Spirit so that we might better follow his lead. May we better reflect the beauty of his life, better make his priorities our own, and better serve our God and neighbor. Our series follows this path:

9/1—Followers of Christ obey his law from the heart

9/8—Followers of Christ see the true purpose of his power

9/15—Followers of Christ are armed for battle

9/22—Followers of Christ are humble servants

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

Preacher: Pastor Ryan Wolfe

Piano/Organ: Robyn Stoller

# Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting One



## Hymn: May We Your Precepts, Lord, Fulfill

CW 697



1 May we your pre - cepts, Lord, ful - fill and do on  
2 So may we join your name to bless, your grace a -  
3 Spir - it of life, of love, and peace, u - nite our



earth our Fa - ther's will as an - gels do a - bove;  
dore, your pow'r con - fess, to flee from sin and strife.  
hearts, our joy in - crease, your gra - cious help sup - ply.



still walk in Christ, the liv - ing way, with all your  
One is our call - ing, one our name, the end of  
To each of us the bless - ing give in Chris - tian



chil - dren, and o - bey the law of Chris - tian love.  
all our hopes the same: a glo - rious crown of life.  
fel - low - ship to live, in joy - ful hope to die.

*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: If we claim to be without sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: **If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.** (1 John 1:8-9)

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

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: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\dagger$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

## Glory Be to God on High: O Lord, Our Lord

CW 939



O Lord, our Lord, how glo-rious is your name in all the earth.



Al-might-y God, mer-ci-ful Fa - ther, you crown our life



with your love. You take a-way our sin; you com-fort our spir-it;



you make us pure and ho-ly in your sight. You did not spare your



on - ly Son, but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,



how glo-rious is your name in all the earth. O Son of



God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther, you came to live with us;

you made your Fa - ther known; you washed us from our sins in  
 your own blood. You are the King of glo - ry; you are the Lord!  
*Refrain*  
 O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

**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 everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; 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**

*Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9*

*God is serious about his law because he knows that when his children follow the law carefully, the result is blessing and honor.*

<sup>1</sup>Now, Israel, hear the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the LORD your God that I give you.

<sup>6</sup>Observe them carefully, for this will show your wisdom and understanding to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." <sup>7</sup>What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever

we pray to him? <sup>8</sup>And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?

<sup>9</sup>Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm of the Day: Teach Me, O LORD

Psalm 119E

### Refrain

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes.

### Tone

Your statutes are / wonderful;  
therefore I o- / bey them.  
The unfolding of your words / gives light;  
it gives understanding to the / simple.  
Turn to me and have mer- / cy on me,  
as you always do to those who / love your name. *Refrain*

Direct my footsteps according / to your word;  
let no sin rule / over me.  
Redeem me from human op- / pression,  
that I may obey your / precepts.  
Make your face shine on your / servant  
and teach me / your decrees.  
**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

Romans 9:30-10:4

*Followers of Christ obey the law, not to attempt to become righteous, but to show heartfelt love to the God who declares us righteous through faith in Jesus.*

<sup>30</sup>What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; <sup>31</sup>but the people of Israel, who pursued the law as the way of righteousness, have not attained their goal. <sup>32</sup>Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone. <sup>33</sup>As it is written:

“See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes people to stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall,  
and the one who believes in him will never be put to shame.”

<sup>1</sup>Brothers and sisters, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. <sup>2</sup>For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. <sup>3</sup>Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

M: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gospel

Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

*The Pharisees established traditions which they thought safeguarded obedience to God, but they missed God’s desire for heartfelt love.*

<sup>1</sup>The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus <sup>2</sup>and saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. <sup>3</sup>(The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. <sup>4</sup>When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

<sup>5</sup>So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, “Why don’t your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with defiled hands?”

<sup>6</sup>He replied, “Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:

“ These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.  
They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.’

<sup>8</sup>You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to human traditions.”

<sup>14</sup>Again Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen to me, everyone, and understand this. <sup>15</sup>Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them.”

<sup>21</sup>For it is from within, out of a person’s heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

*Be seated.*

## Children’s Devotion

### Hymn of the Day: O God, My Faithful God CW 740 sts. 1–2, 4



1 O God, my faith - ful God, O Foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,  
2 Grant me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing  
4 Lord, let me win my foes with kind - ly words and ac - tions,



who good and per - fect gifts in mer - cy are be - stow - ing,  
what - ev - er you com - mand, my call - ing here ful - fill - ing,  
and let me find good friends for coun - sel and cor - rec - tion.



give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in  
that I do what I should while trust - ing you to bless  
Help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small



a con - science free from blame, a soul un - hurt by sin.  
the out - come for my good, for you must give suc - cess.  
and by your Spir - it's might to live in peace with all.



*“God’s guide to worship: Hearts of faith not rules of men”*

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.

# Hymn: My Heart Is Filled with Thankfulness

CW 626



1 My heart is filled with thank-ful-ness to him who bore my  
 2 My heart is filled with thank-ful-ness to him who walks be -  
 3 My heart is filled with thank-ful-ness to him who reigns a -



pain, who plumbed the depths of my dis - grace and  
 side, who floods my weak - ness - es with strength and  
 bove, whose wis - dom is my per - fect peace, whose



gave me life a - gain, who crushed my curse of sin - ful -  
 caus-es fears to fly, whose ev - 'ry prom - ise is e -  
 ev - 'ry thought is love. For ev - 'ry day I have on



ness and clothed me in his light and wrote his law of  
 nough for ev - 'ry step I take, sus - tain - ing me with  
 earth is giv - en by the King. So I will give my



right - eous - ness with pow'r up - on my heart.  
 arms of love and crown - ing me with grace.  
 life, my all, to love and fol - low him.

\* \_\_\_\_\_

\* This phrase repeats at the end of st. 3.

**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: Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

CW 705



- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
- 2 Or - der my foot - steps by your Word, and make my heart sin - cere;
- 3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep,
- 4 Make me to walk in your com - mands—'tis a de - light - ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!  
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.  
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.  
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

## Silent Prayer and Announcements

### WELS Connection

### 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 church sanctuary.

### For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Followers of Christ See the True Purpose of His Power

Bible Readings: Isaiah 35:4-7a, Acts 3:1-10, Mark 7:31-37

Hymns: 537, 769, 665

# 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.**

