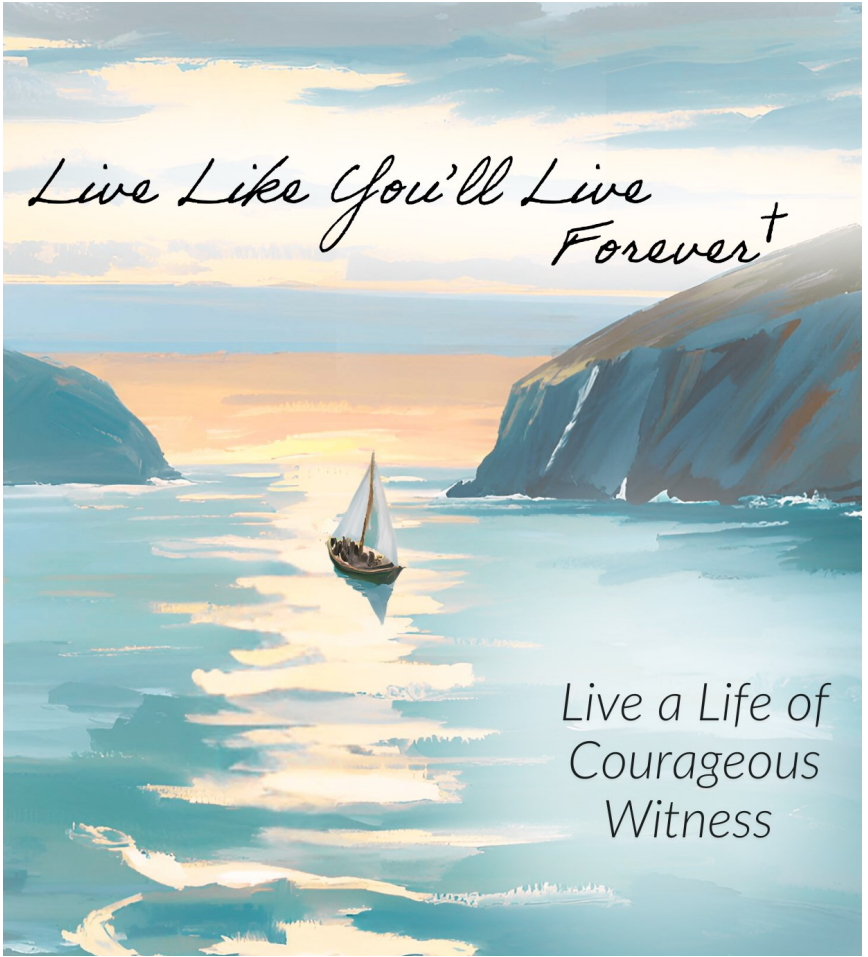


Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

October 26-27, 2023



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

651-439-7831

www.salemlutheran.org



Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

*Live Like You'll Live Forever:
Live a Life of Courageous Witness*

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: Heavenly Father, thank you for your gifts of grace this past week. Bless me through your Word as I worship here today, and send me from this place with a joyful heart and an eager purpose. In Jesus, Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: Jesus repeatedly told his followers that living as his disciples would bring hardship. Sharing a message of mankind's sin and God's gracious salvation can cause offense. So why not just stay silent if that makes life easier? Why not keep our faith private? Answer: because we are going to live forever. In gratitude for Christ saving us and giving us eternal life, we share the gospel with others, hoping that they will believe and be saved too. Martin Luther wanted to reform the false teaching of the church. Luther knew that, thanks to Christ, he would live forever. So will we.

WORSHIP SERIES: "Live each day like it's your last." You have probably heard that advice. It sounds wise—an encouragement to take advantage of the time you have. However, that advice is completely backwards. Because the reality is, thanks to Jesus, we have forever. Let that sink in. Jesus has given you the gift of eternal life. You are going to live forever. If you really thought it was your last day, that belief would shape how you lived that day. In this series, we consider how the gift of eternal life shapes how we live each day.

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:

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe Piano/Organ: Robyn Stoller
Choir Director: Luke Dorn Handbell Director: Jessie Wolfe
Brass: Roger Zolldan, Ryan Wolfe, Zander Gosch, Dave Wurst

Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting Four



Hymn: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

CW 862



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your Word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would seek to o - ver - throw your
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your Chris - ten - dom that
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal



Son and to de - stroy what he has done.
we may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
strife and lead us out of death to life.

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.**

(Sunday) Choir Anthem: Forevermore

By Dan Forrest

The congregation is invited to join the choir for the verses in bold.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Word of God, the Cornerstone,
Yesterday, today, forever, seated on His heavenly throne.
In this world that God created, broken by the fall of man,
God remains the sure foundation, steadfast and unshakeable, forevermore.

**O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.**

God will not forget His promise ever faithful to remain,
Never to forsake or leave us, by our side both night and day.
Our tomorrows hold no secrets that the Father does not know;
We can trust Him, ever working for His glory and our good, forevermore.

**Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have slept secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.**

Praise the Author of creation, or the world and all it holds;
Praise the Word eternal, standing firm Our God is God forevermore

**O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.**

Forevermore!

THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the church your saving peace; 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

Daniel 3:16-28

In response to an evil command offered by a pagan king, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego lived lives of fearless witness.

¹⁶Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, “King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. ¹⁸But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.”

¹⁹Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated seven times hotter than usual ²⁰and commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. ²¹So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. ²²The king’s command was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the fire killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, ²³and these three men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace.

²⁴Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his feet in amazement and asked his advisers, “Weren’t there three men that we tied up and threw into the fire?”

They replied, “Certainly, Your Majesty.”

²⁵He said, “Look! I see four men walking around in the fire, unbound and unharmed, and the fourth looks like a son of the gods.”

²⁶Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!”

So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fire, ²⁷and the satraps, prefects, governors and royal advisers crowded around them. They saw that the fire had not harmed their bodies, nor was a hair of their heads singed; their robes were not scorched, and there was no smell of fire on them.

²⁸Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king’s command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Sunday) Choir Anthem: God is Our Refuge and Strength

Psalm 46, paraphrased JAB

By John A. Behnke (ASCAP)

Choir: Antiphon

God is our refuge and our strength, our only help in trouble.

Choir and Congregation:

Antiphon

God is our re - fuge and our strength, our
on - ly help in trou - ble.

Choir: We will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the sea,
Though its waters roar and foam
And the mountains quake with their surging.
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
The holy place where the Most High dwells. **Antiphon**

Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
He lifts His voice, the earth melts.
The Lord Almighty is with us,
The God of Jacob is our fortress. **Antiphon**

He makes wars cease
He breaks the bow and burns the shields with fire.
Be still, be still, be still and know that I am God.
The Lord Almighty is with us.
The God of Jacob is our fortress. **Antiphon**

God is our refuge and our strength, our only help in trouble.

Second Reading

Revelation 14:6-7

St. John sees God's messenger proclaiming the true gospel to all people. In 1546, this reading served as the text for the funeral of Dr. Martin Luther.

⁶Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. ⁷He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel

Mark 13:5-11

Jesus encourages and empowers us that we might be bold in sharing the gospel in these end times.

⁵Jesus said to them: “Watch out that no one deceives you. ⁶Many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and will deceive many. ⁷When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁸Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.

⁹“You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. ¹⁰And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. ¹¹Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Children's Devotion

Hymn of the Day: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

CW 863



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a trust - y shield
 2 With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our loss
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill, all ea - ger to
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main nor an - y thanks



and weap - on; he helps us free from ev - 'ry need
 ef - fect - ed; but for us fights the val - iant one
 de - vour us, we trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
 have for it; he's by our side up - on the plain



that has us now o'er - tak - en. The old
 whom God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask,
 they shall not o - ver - pow'r us. This world's
 with his good gifts and Spir - it. And take



e - vil foe now means dead - ly woe;
 "Who is this?" Je - sus Christ it is,
 prince may still scowl fierce as he will,
 they our life, goods, fame, child, and wife,



deep guile and great might are his dread arms in fight;
 the al - might - y Lord, and there's no oth - er God;
 he can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done;
 though all may be gone, our vic - to - ry is won;



on earth is not his e - qual.
 he holds the field for - ev - er.
 one lit - tle word can fell him.
 the king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Sermon

Based on Revelation 14:6-7

"The Gospel is preached!"

Please stand after the sermon.

THANKSGIVING

Luther's Explanation to the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed

C: 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.

M: What does this mean?

C: I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him.

But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers.

On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

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 in blessing his saints of the past has given us assurance and hope that, following their example, we may run the race marked out for us and receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. 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 \dagger 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 \dagger 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. 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: Reformation Song CW 877 sts. 1-2, Ref, 3-4

1 Your Word a - lone is sol - id ground,
 2 Thro' faith a - lone we come to you;
 3 In Christ a - lone we're jus - ti - fied;
 4 By grace a - lone we have been saved;
 the might - y rock on which we build.
 we have no mer - it we can claim.
 his right - eous - ness is all our plea.
 all that we are has come from you.
 In ev - 'ry line the truth is found,
 Sure that your prom - is - es are true,
 Your law's de - mands are sat - is - fied;
 Hearts that were once by sin en - slaved



and ev - 'ry page with glo - ry filled. v. 2
we place our hope in Je - sus' name.
his per - fect work has set us free.
now by your pow'r have been made new.



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ry to God a - lone.



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ry to God a - lone.

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 & 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: God's Word Is Our Great Heritage

CW 640



God's Word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for -
ev - er; to spread its light from age to age shall be our
chief en - deav - or. Thro' life it guides our way, in death it
is our stay. Lord, grant, while worlds en - dure, we keep its
teach - ings pure through - out all gen - er - a - tions.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Acknowledgments

Setting Four from Christian Worship

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Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, all are invited to enjoy refreshments and fellowship in the entry between services. Sunday JAM for children ages 3yrs to 6th grade starts at 9:10am in the sanctuary. Join us for a special presentation about Kingdom Workers beginning at 9:15 in the fellowship hall downstairs.

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Live Like You'll Live Forever: Live Knowing Life Only Gets Better

Bible Readings: Isaiah 25:6-9; Revelation 20:4-6; John 11:32-44

Hymns: 889, 880, 883

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.

