

November 23-24, 2024



**GO & TELL ALL PEOPLE.
ALL NATIONS.
EVERYWHERE.**



Last Sunday of the Church Year



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

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www.salemlutheran.org



Last Sunday of the Church Year

Live Like You'll Live Forever: Live with an Eye to the Skies and an Eye for the Lost

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: Sovereign Lord, you rule over the heavens and earth, and all that is in them. Thank you for guiding me through another week and bringing me here to this house of rest. Fill me with peace in your Spirit. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: As the Church Year comes to a close, Jesus promises that he will come again to usher in a new and perfect home where we will live with him forever. God also tells us that on that day believers from all nations will join us in joy. Today we welcome Pastor Larry Schlomer to share news with us from our WELS missions. By God's grace people around the world, and right here, are putting their trust in Christ. As we live with an eye to the sky, let us also live with an eye for the lost.

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. 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. Live like you'll live forever!

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 Preacher: Pastor Larry Schlomer
Choir Director/Organist: Luke Dorn
Praise Group: Luke Dorn, Alli Dorn, Jessie Wolfe, Carolyn Forster,
Al Sehloff, Abigail Ibisch

Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting Four



Opening Song: Even So Come

by Chris Tomlin

The Praise Group leads the song. The congregation may join in when comfortable.

All of creation, all of the earth, make straight a highway, a path for the Lord.
Jesus is coming soon.

Call back the sinner, wake up the saint, let ev'ry nation shout of Your fame.
Jesus is coming soon.

Refrain: Like a bride waiting for her groom,
We'll be a church ready for You.
Ev'ry heart longing for our King
We sing "Even so come,
Lord Jesus, come.
Even so come, Lord Jesus, come."

There will be justice, all will be new. Your name forever, faithful and true.
Jesus is coming soon. **Refrain**

So we wait, we wait for You. God, we wait; You're coming soon.

So we wait, we wait for You. God, we wait; You're coming soon. **Refrain x2**

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: To the Lamb on the Throne

by Dan Forrest

The choir sings the first three stanzas. The congregation may join in the 4th stanza.

Worthy the Lamb.

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaims,
and publish abroad His wonderful name;

The name all victorious of Jesus extol;

His kingdom is glorious and rules over all. Worthy the Lamb.

“Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!”

Let all cry aloud, and honor the Son;

The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,

Fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb. Worthy the Lamb.

God rules in the height, almighty to save;

Though hid from our sight, His presence we have.

The great congregation His triumph shall sing,

Ascribing salvation to Jesus our King. Worthy the Lamb

Then let us adore and give Him His right,

All glory and pow’r, all wisdom and might;

All honor and blessing with angels above,

And thanks never ceasing and infinite love.

Worthy the lamb.

THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, you sent your disciples to proclaim your coming. Bless all the missions of your church, and enable your workers to gather in your harvest.

Through them, show your love to the helpless, enlighten those in darkness, assist those in peril and need, and at last bring all your children home to yourself; you live and reign, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated.

First Reading

Isaiah 51:4-6

The Lord's people from all nations live in joyful expectation of salvation, with eyes lifted up to the skies.

⁴“Listen to me, my people;
hear me, my nation:
Instruction will go out from me;
my justice will become a light to the nations.
⁵My righteousness draws near speedily,
my salvation is on the way,
and my arm will bring justice to the nations.
The islands will look to me
and wait in hope for my arm.
⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
look at the earth beneath;
the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment
and its inhabitants die like flies.
But my salvation will last forever,
my righteousness will never fail.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Acts 17:22-31

Paul preaches in Athens about the one True God. He created the world and will one day return to judge it.

²²Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. ²³For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

²⁴“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. ²⁵And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. ²⁶From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’

²⁹“Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. ³⁰In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel

Mark 13:26-37

Believers keep watch for Jesus’ return on the Last Day, sharing the Gospel of Christ with others as well. That day, believers will stream to heaven from every corner of the earth.

²⁶“At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

²⁸“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ²⁹Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

³⁵“Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’ ”

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Children’s Devotion

Hymn of the Day: O Christians, Haste

CW 901 sts. 1, Ref, 3-4



1 O Chris - tians, haste, your mis - sion high ful - fill - ing,
3 Pro - claim to ev - 'ry peo - ple, tongue, and na - tion
4 Send her - alds forth to bear the mes - sage glo - rious,



to tell to all the world that God is light,
that God, in whom they live and move, is love;
give of your wealth to speed them on their way;



that he who made all na - tions is not will - ing
tell how he stooped to save his lost cre - a - tion
pour out your soul for them in prayer vic - to - rious;



one soul should per - ish, lost in shades of night.
and died on earth that they might live a - bove.
O Chris - tians, haste to bring the bright - er day!

Refrain



Pub - lish glad ti - dings, ti - dings of peace,



ti - dings of Je - sus, re - demp - tion and re - lease.

Sermon

Based on Acts 17:22-31

"We Have Proof"

Please remain seated after the sermon.

THANKSGIVING

The Third Article (Sanctification)

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.

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.

(10:30 am) Recognition of Faithful Service

M: Brothers and sisters, among the many blessings the Lord gives his church are those who serve in the public ministry of the gospel. St. Paul wrote: *"Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."* Today we give thanks for our teachers celebrating milestone anniversaries of their time serving in gospel ministry: Dan Bredendick (40 years), Amy Stilwagon (25 years), and Ryan Klatt (10 years).

M: Dear sister and brothers, as you carried out your ministry, you remembered the words Isaiah wrote about the coming Servant of the Lord: *"He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close*

to his heart.” You recalled the Savior’s own words, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” By God’s grace and with his guidance, you have served faithfully for many years and have been a blessing to children and families. We praise God for you and thank you for your love and care.

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, in your grace and wisdom you gave the apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed the flock of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Inspire all servants of the gospel to carry out their tasks diligently and faithfully and move your people to receive their ministry with love and respect. We thank you today for blessing us through the ministry of these teachers. Continue to use your servants according to your will and ways. Protect them from trouble and give them joy as they pursue the labors of each day. When the task is hard, let nothing move them, but strengthen them to stand firm, knowing that their labor in the Lord is not in vain. We ask all these things through your Son, Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep. Amen.

M: Dear sister and brothers, may the Lord keep you from all harm and watch over your life. May the Lord watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

M: Loving Lord, your Son, our Lord Jesus, has given gifts to the Church in the apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. According to your will, raise up more workers and send them into harvest fields in our land and around the world. By the power of your gospel, strengthen them so that they do not become discouraged but continue in the course you have set before them.

C: May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth.

M: Pour out your wisdom, O Lord, on all who proclaim the gospel in their own communities and cultures. Through the power of the Spirit lead them to rely on the authority of your Word and to look for success in the witness of your love. Let them find support from Christians both near and far from them.

C: May the peoples praise you, O God. May all the peoples praise you.

M: Spare from infection and injury those who serve your people far away . Provide medical facilities to diagnose and treat disease. Give help and comfort to all the sick in every land [*especially...*]. Bring healing and health according to your will.

C: May the nations be glad and sing for joy.

M: Lord God, King of the universe, direct the governments of the world that your people may live quiet and peaceful lives. Protect us from crime and war. Let freedom of religion flourish that the gospel may be freely preached throughout the world. Cast down rulers who oppress their people; remove governments that oppose the gospel. Bring relief to Christians who are persecuted.

C: For you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations of the earth.

M: Wherever we go, near or far, move us to share the gospel with eagerness and joy. Give us grace to be models to all so that our brothers and sisters might see our good works and glorify you. Plant in the hearts of your people a deeper desire to share the gospel with their lips and their gifts so that many more may come to know and believe the love of your Son.

C: The land yields its harvest, and God, our God, blesses us. May God bless us, so that all the ends of the earth will revere him. 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.

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 preserves his Church to the end of time, when he will come

again as king to judge all people and take his own to 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 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 + 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

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff. It begins with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of several phrases, each corresponding to a line of lyrics. The lyrics are: "O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us." This phrase is repeated twice. The final phrase is "A - men. A - men." The score ends with a double bar line.

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: At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

CW 675



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to
2 Praise we him whose love di - vine gives his
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured, death's dread
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal



our vic - to - rious King, who has washed us in the tide
sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast -
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; with sin - cer - i - ty and love



flow - ing from his pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
thro' the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

- 5 Mighty Victim from the sky, hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie.
You have conquered in the fight, you have brought us life and light. Alleluia!
- 6 Now no more can death appall, now no more the grave enthrall;
you have opened paradise, and your saints in you shall rise. Alleluia!
- 7 Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy;
from sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, newborn souls in you to be. Alleluia!
- 8 Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days, Three in One, your name we praise. Alleluia!

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.

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.

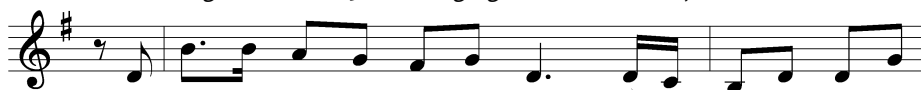
C: Amen.

Be seated.

Hymn: Immovable Our Hope Remains

CW 832

Cantors will sing verses 1 and 3. The congregation is invited to join in verses 2 and 4.



1 Im - mov - a - ble our hope re - mains, though shift - ing sands be -
2 This is e - ter - nal life: to know the liv - ing God and
3 The Lord ac - quits, who can con - demn? Though Sa - tan's ac - cu -
4 Built in - to Christ, se - cure we stand, for with his Spir - it



fore us lie; the One who washed a - way our stains shall
Christ, the Son. The Sav - ior will not let us go un -
sa - tions fly, his pow'r can nev - er reach our names, to
we've been sealed; by grace we'll see the prom - ised land where



bear us safe - ly to the skies. The floods may rise, the
til his sav - ing work is done. Our debt was great, as
blot them from the Book of Life. The Son has sure - ly
ev - 'ry sor - row shall be healed. To God who gave his



winds may beat, tor - ren - tial rains de - scend, yet
was our need, but now the price is paid. Who
made us free, his Word for - ev - er stands, and
on - ly Son, to Je - sus Christ, our Lord to



God his own will not for - get; he'll love and keep us
can be - hold Im - man - uel bleed and doubt his will - ing -
all our joy is know - ing we are grav - en on his
God the Spir - it, Three in One, be songs of praise for -



till the end. You'll love and keep us till the end.
ness to save? We trust your will - ing - ness to save.
wound - ed hands. We're grav - en on your wound - ed hands.
ev - er - more. We'll sing your praise for - ev - er - more.

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. Pastor Schlomer will give a presentation about WELS missions at 9:15 in the fellowship hall downstairs. Join us for brunch in the gym after the 10:30 am service.

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: A Real Christmas Requires Remembering Why Christ Came

Bible Readings: Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 19:28-40

Hymns: 302, 301, 360, 313

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.

