

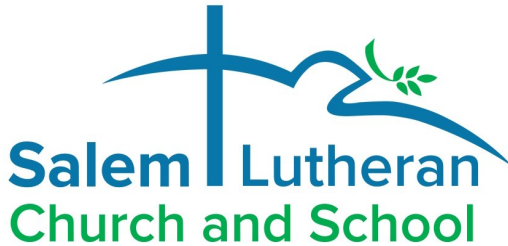
February 1-2, 2025



EPIPHANY

moments

Popularity is not proof of success



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Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

*Epiphany Moments:
Popularity is Not Proof of Success*

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: Savior Jesus, the truth of your Gospel gives us hope during the week and joy here in worship. Move our hearts to joyful praise in Christ as we gather here and as we go from here to serve you in all we do. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: It is easy to think that the more people that like us, the more successful our lives must be. Likewise, it is easy to believe the more people like a church, the more successful that church is. So here is an important epiphany for both individuals and churches. Popularity is not proof of success.

Though there will be times when Christ's gospel and those who proclaim it are popular, that popularity is never the goal. Nor does that popularity define success. If a church grows a crowd and grows in numbers, but fails to make the gospel of forgiveness in Jesus the center of its preaching and teaching, it hasn't succeeded - it has failed. Success in the church and success for the church is found in one thing alone - Christ crucified for sinners.

OUR WORSHIP SERIES: "Epiphany" comes from a Greek word that means "reveal." In the Church Year, Epiphany is the season where we see Jesus begin his ministry, revealing himself as the divine Son of God come to earth in humility to save sinners. In this season we are reminded that there is more to Jesus than what we see on the surface. A review of Jesus' life provides an abundance of epiphany moments where God reveals our Savior to us, and reveals our place in his plan as well.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Guest Preacher: Pastor Percy Damrow Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe
Piano/Organ: Robyn Stoller Choir Director: Luke Dorn
Flute: Rachel Collins

Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting One



Introduction & Welcome

Hymn: Go Forth and Preach the Gospel

CW 908 sts. 1, 3



1 Go forth and preach the gos - pel to all who are in need.
3 Go forth and preach the gos - pel; go spread the news a - broad!



As wit - ness to the Sav - ior, go teach by word and deed.
Pro - claim to ev - 'ry na - tion the great - ness of our God.



The Spir - it is up - on us, and sends us to de - clare
The Spir - it is up - on us, that all may un - der - stand



good news of God's for - give - ness to peo - ple ev - 'ry - where.
the prom - ise of sal - va - tion re - vealed to ev - 'ry land.

Please stand.

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

CONFESSIOIN & 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 + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

(Sunday) Choir Anthem *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

Erik Dewar & Dan Forrest

The choir will sing verses 1 and 2. The congregation may join in verse 3.

I Want to walk as a child of the light; I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world; The star of my life is Jesus.
In Him there is no darkness at all; The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God: Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I Want to see the brightness of God; I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
And show me the way to the Father.
In Him there is no darkness at all; The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God: Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

**I'm looking for the coming of Christ; I want to be with Jesus,
When we have run with patience the race, We shall know the joy of Jesus.
In Him there is no darkness at all; The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God: Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

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, look with mercy on our weaknesses, and in all our dangers and needs stretch out the right hand of your majesty to help and defend us; 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

Jeremiah 1:4-10

The Lord called Jeremiah to fearlessly share God's Word, even if what he said made him unpopular.

⁴The word of the LORD came to me, saying,

⁵"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I set you apart;
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

⁶"Alas, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young."

⁷But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. ⁸Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.

⁹Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant."

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm of the Day: God Is My Strong Salvation

Psalm 71A

Saturday all sing. On Sunday the choir will sing the first refrain and verses, with the congregation joining on the other refrains and the gloria.

Refrain



God is my strong sal - va - tion; what foe have I to fear?

In you, LORD, I have taken / refuge;
let me never be / put to shame.
In your righteousness, rescue me and de- / liver me;
turn your ear to me and / save me.
Be my rock of / refuge,
to which I can / always go. *Refrain*

Since my youth, God, you have / taught me,
and to this day I declare your / marv'ulous deeds.
Even when I am / old and gray,
do not forsake / me, my God,
till I declare your power to the next gener- / ation,
your mighty acts to all who / are to come.

**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 3:14-4:5

Spiritual leaders may be tempted to say only what people want to hear, equating personal popularity with success., but success is found in sound doctrine.

¹⁴But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

¹In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge:

²Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. ³For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say

what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

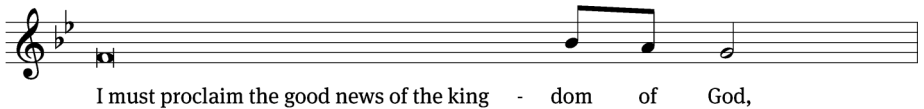
Gospel Acclamation

Luke 4:43

Refrain



Tone



Gospel

Luke 4:38-44

Jesus was popular in Capernaum and people wanted him to stay, but he knew to be truly successful, he needed to proclaim the good news in other towns.

³⁸Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. ³⁹So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.

⁴⁰At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. ⁴¹Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Messiah.

⁴²At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. ⁴³But he said, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent." ⁴⁴And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

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



1 O Chris - tians, haste, your mis - sion high ful - fill - ing,
2 Be - hold how man - y thou - sands still are ly - 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,
bound in the drear - y pris - on - house of sin
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
with none to tell them of the Sav - ior's dy - 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.
or of the life he died for them to win.
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.

“Miracles with a Purpose”

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: Lord Jesus Christ, Our Savior-King

CW 899 sts. 1-5



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, our Sav - ior - King, to you our
2 Your Scrip - tures lead us to re - joice, for there we
3 Your Spir - it's call to faith we heard in wa - ter's
4 With sim - ple food of bread and wine you feed us
5 As stew - ards of these means of grace you send out



high - est praise we sing for bless - ings to the
hear our Fa - ther's voice. His gra - cious prom - is -
wash - ing with the Word. Lord, keep us in bap -
with a feast di - vine. Your blood and bod - y
preach - ers in your place your won - drous mer - cy



Church, your bride, with whom you ev - er - more a - bide.
es pro - claim for - give - ness in your ho - ly name.
tis - mal grace and make our hearts your dwell - ing place.
we par - take— our sins for - giv - en for your sake.
to pro - claim and glo - ri - fy your sav - ing name.

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: Preserve Your Word, O Savior

CW 874 st. 1

1 Pre - serve your Word, O Sav - ior, to us this lat - ter
day, and let your king - dom flour - ish; en - large your
Church, we pray. O keep our faith from fail - ing, keep
hope's bright star a - glow; let noth - ing turn us
from you while wan-d'ring here be - low.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Preschool Presentation– Jane Grobe

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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Fellowship & Spiritual Growth

Sunday morning, we will have a call meeting between services. Sunday morning, children ages 3yrs to 6th grade are invited to learn more about Jesus in Sunday JAM, starting at 9:15am in the Kindergarten room.

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Epiphany Moments: The Least Qualified are the First Sent

Bible Readings: Isaiah 6:1-8; Romans 10:12-17; Luke 5:1-11

Hymns: 743, 745, 673, 746, 716

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.**

