



Salem Lutheran Church

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Assistant Minister: Phil B.

Lay Reader: Mary Lou V.B.

Communion: Phil B., Judy & Jack S.

July 19, 2026

9:30 am

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose compassion endures forever.

A Amen.

L Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L Compassionate God,

A we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

L Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

A Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

"All Creatures, Worship God Most High!"

ELW 835, vs. 1-3, 6

1 All creatures, worship God most high!
Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;
sing, sister moon and stars of night:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain
you grow the gifts of fruit and grain:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear sister water, useful, clear,
make music for your Lord to hear:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 Sing, brother fire, so mirthful, strong,
drive far the shadows, join the throng:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear mother earth, so rich in care,
praise God in colors bright and rare:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

GREETING AND PRAYER

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

A And also with you.

L Holy God, we lift to you the animal inhabitants of the earth. For those seen and unseen creatures and living things that attest to your creative power, we ask your blessing. We pray for victims of animal cruelty. Bless all who care for injured and abused animals. Comfort those who mourn for their pets and for endangered and extinct species. Strengthen and nurture the loving bonds we have with all the creatures we share our lives with. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ.

A Amen.

BLESSING OF ANIMALS

L Holy God, we thank you for the gift of (pet's name). Today we pause to name our gratitude, and to pray a blessing on (pet's name). For the companionship of our pets we say thanks. Bless this animal's life in our care; may *they* know love through all *their* days.

A Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

L Gracious and loving God, you place all living things into the care of humankind. We pray that companionship with household pets will deepen our care for animals everywhere. Help us to balance our needs with theirs, and lead us in ways of life together that will be sustainable for all. We pray in Jesus' name.

A Amen.

KYRIE

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

This is the feast of vict'ry for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his. *Refrain*

Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain*

FIRST READING: WISDOM OF SOLOMON 12:13, 16-19

¹³ For neither is there any god besides you whose care is for all people, to whom you should prove that you have not judged unjustly, ¹⁶ For your strength is the source of righteousness, and your sovereignty over all causes you to spare all. ¹⁷ For you show your strength when people doubt the completeness of your power, and you rebuke any insolence among those who know it. ¹⁸ Although you are sovereign in strength, you judge fairly, and with great forbearance you govern us, for you have power to act whenever you choose. ¹⁹ Through such works you have taught your people that the righteous must be kind, and you have filled your children with good hope, because you give repentance for sins.

L The Word of the Lord.

A Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: PSALM 86:11-17

¹¹ Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name. ¹² I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever. ¹³ For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol. ¹⁴ O God, the insolent rise up against me; a band of ruffians seeks my life, and they do not set you before them. ¹⁵ But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. ¹⁶ Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant; save the child of your maidservant. ¹⁷ Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame, because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

L The Word of the Lord.

A Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia.

L The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

A Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13:24-30, 36-43

²⁴ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field,²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸ He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹ But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them.'

³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ” ³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” ³⁷ He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

L The Gospel of the Lord.

A Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

“Gardening and Growing Together”

Pastor Aaron Holmgren

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Inch by Inch”

Chorus

1 Inch by inch, row by row
Gonna make this garden grow
All it takes is a rake and a hoe
And a piece of fertile ground
Inch by inch, row by row
Please bless these seeds I sow
Please warm them from below
'Til the rains come a-tumblin' down

2 Pullin' weeds and pickin' stones
We are made of dreams and bones
Feel the need to grow my own
As the time is close at hand
Grain for grain, sun and rain
Find my way in nature's chain
Tune my body and my brain
To the music from the land *Chorus*

3 Plant your rows straight and long
Season them with prayer and song
Mother Earth will make you strong
If you give her love and care
An old crow watches hungrily
From his perch in yonder tree
And in my garden I'm as free
As that feathered thief up there *Chorus*

APOSTLES' CREED

L God has made us God's people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

A I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L God of grace,

A hear our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L The peace of the Lord be with you always.

A And also with you.

OFFERING

"Special Music"

Keith Irwin, Mary & Tom Irwin (French Horns)

(Offering baskets are located in back of the sanctuary)

DOXOLOGY

"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.

Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

L Generous God,

A you have given us life, this community, and these gifts of the earth that become the means of your grace. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

L The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

A Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L Shepherding God,

A you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

*"This Is My Father's World"**

1 This is my Father's world,
and to my list'ning ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.

2 This is my Father's world;
the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world;
he shines in all that's fair.
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;
he speaks to me ev'rywhere.

3 This is my Father's world;
oh, let me not forget
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world;
why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is king, let heaven ring;
God reigns, let earth be glad!

DISMISSAL

L Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

A Thanks be to God.

Scan for Church Announcements



Welcome Guests & Visitors!

We hope you found the worship service meaningful. If you or someone you know would like information about Salem; program offerings, perhaps looking for a church home or some other need: Please contact the church office (651-457-6661) or Diane Hueller (651-451-0307)

****Summer Hymn Request***

ADULT FORUM – TODAY AFTER WORSHIP*

“A WALK AROUND THE RAIN GARDENS”

Johanna Nelson, one of the Salem gardeners, will be available after worship today to give tours of the rain gardens and answer any questions you might have about the plants, flowers and trees around the campus. Grab a cup of coffee and treat from the Narthex and spend some time enjoying God’s creation and learning more about gardening at Salem!

**Contingent on weather/air quality*



Salem Lutheran Church

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