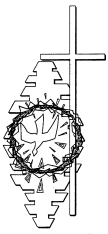




WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
OCTOBER 4, 2026
9:30 AM



Salem Lutheran Church

Assistant Minister: Phil B.

Lay Reader: Keith O.

Communion: Lana P., Carol O.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 4, 2026

9:30 am

PRELUDE “In the Garden (American) & O Living Bread From Heaven (English)” Robert Kelsey
(Xylophone solo, instrument that originated in Africa and Asia)

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP “Listen, God Is Calling” Salem Singers (Origin: Tanzania)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

A Amen.

L Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L Compassionate God,

A we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

L Hear this good news: We have peace with God through Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

A Amen.

GATHERING HYMN “You Are Holy” ELW 525 (Origin, Swedish)

GREETING

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.

KYRIE ELW 155 (Origin, Russian Orthodox)

HYMN OF PRAISE “Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation” ELW 645, v. 1 & 4 (Origin: English)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L The Lord be with you.

A And also with you.

L Let us pray,

A Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 5:1-7

¹ I will sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. ² He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded rotten grapes. ³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield rotten grapes? ⁵ And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. ⁶ I will make it a wasteland; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. ⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished garden; he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness but heard a cry!

L The Word of the Lord.

A Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: COLOSSIANS 3:4B-14

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:

⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me.

¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

L The Word of the Lord.

A Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 172 (Origin: Caribbean)

L The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

A Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21:33-46

[Jesus said:] ³³ “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹ They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.” ⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’? ⁴³ “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.” ⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

L The Gospel of the Lord.

A Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

“What is Due?”

Pastor Aaron Holmgren

HYMN OF THE DAY

“We All Are One in Mission”

ELW 576 (Origin: Finnish)

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 Hear us, O God.

A Your mercy is great.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L The peace of the Lord be with you always.

A And also with you.

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OFFERING

"African Psalm"

Salem Singers, Rosanna Barker (flute)

(Offering baskets are located in back of the sanctuary)

DOXOLOGY

"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

ELW 184

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

ELW 357 (Origin: German)

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L Shepherd 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 “We Are Marching in the Light” ELW 866, v. 1 & 4 (Origin: South African)
(Sung in Swahili)

DISMISSAL

L Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

A Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Ode to Joy”

(Origin: German)

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).

2026 Scholarship Drive - Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who donated so generously to this year's scholarship drive for students in Guatemala and Tanzania. Your contributions truly have a life long impact on the students Salem supports, their families and their entire communities!

Guatemala Scholarships: \$2, 884.07

Magome Scholarships: \$12, 072.12



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