

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church



Sundays at Salem

~ Worship ~~ 10:00 am ~
~ Coffee Fellowship ~

Rev. John Ansell

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***“Our Mission is to pass on the faith by involving all
members of our community in Christ’s ministry.”***

**Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church
4715 Hermantown Rd., Hermantown, MN 55811**

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

~ SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 ~ 10:00 am

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP “10,000 Reasons”

O my soul; worship His holy name.

Sing like never before, O my soul;

I'll worship Your holy name.

Vs. 1 The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,
 It's time to sing Your song again.
 Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,
 Let me be singing when the evening comes. **(Chorus)**

Vs. 2 You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.
 Your name is great and Your heart is kind.
 For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing:
 Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. **(Chorus)**

Vs. 3 And on that day, when my strength is failing,
 The end draws near, and my time has come;
 Still, my soul will sing Your praise unending,
 Ten thousand years, and then forever more! **(Chorus)**

 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
 O my soul; worship His holy name.
 Sing like never before, O my soul;
 I'll worship Your holy name, worship Your holy name.
 Lord, I'll worship Your holy name.

 Sing like never before, O my soul;
 I'll worship Your holy name,

Worship Your holy name, Worship Your holy name.

* **CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

WOV pg.10

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

- * **GREETING** WOV pg.28
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and
the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: And also with you.
- * **KYRIE** WOV pg. 28
P: Kyrie eleison:
C: Lord, have mercy.
P: Christe eleison:
C: Christ, have mercy.
P: Kyrie eleison:
C: Lord, have mercy.
- * **HYMN OF PRAISE** WOV pg.29
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship
you we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of
God you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; you
are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth,
And peace to God's people on earth.

* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: God of compassion,

C: you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: JONAH 3:10-4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

⁴ But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴ And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The Lord God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰ Then

the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?” Word of God, word of life. ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 148:1-8

Please read responsively

¹ Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

² Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

³ Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the heavens!

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.

⁶ He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed. [\[a\]](#)

⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have. Word of God, word of life. ***Thanks be to God.***

* **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

WOV pg. 31

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

* **GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16**

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

* **Matthew 20:1-16**

20 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and

then going to the first.’⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius.¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius.¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner,¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?’¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’^[a]¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”^[b]

The Gospel of our Lord. ***Praise to you, Christ.***

SERMON

*** SERMON SONG “He Will Hold Me Fast”**

When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold; He must hold me fast.

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Saviour loves me so, He will hold me fast.

Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in his holy sight, He will hold me fast.

He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Saviour loves me so, He will hold me fast.

For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.

Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast
'Till our faith is turned to sight, When He comes at last!

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Saviour loves me so, He will hold me fast.

* **APOSTLE'S CREED** WOV pg. 33

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.

* **JOYS, SORROWS & CONCERNS**

* **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

L: Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer
our prayers, confident that God hears us.

Lord, listen to your children praying, WOV #775
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

L: Hear us O God,

C: Your mercy is great

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

L: Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

* **THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING COLLECTION

P: We will accept our offering at this time.

* **OFFERING “*Let the vineyards*”** *WOV pg. 35*

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 now.

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

* **OFFERING PRAYER**

C: *God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, or redeemer and Lord. Amen.*

MEAL

* **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: *We lift them to the Lord.*

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

* **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.

"Lamb of God"

WOV pg. 39

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.

Special Music "Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor"

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray. Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. ***Amen.***

PRAYER FOR THE SENDING OF COMMUNION

P: Compassionate God, as Jesus called disciples to follow him, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick/homebound/or imprisoned. May these gifts be signs of our love and prayers that through the sharing of the body and blood of Christ, all

may know your grace and healing revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* **BENEDICTION**

* **SENDING SONG “You Are Holy”** *Hymn #525*

You are holy, you are whole. You are always ever more than we ever understand. You are always at hand. Blessed are you coming near; blessed are you coming here to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

You are holy, you are wholeness,
you are present. Let the cosmos praise you, Lord!
Sing hosanna in the highest!
Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna to our God.

* **DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

** Please stand if you are able*

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WELCOME

We are delighted to welcome those of you visiting with us today. Communion is open to all who believe. ***If you need gluten-free bread or prefer grape juice, please let the servers know. Notify the usher if you wish to be served in the pew.***

THIS WEEK AT SALEM

TODAY, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

Worship	10:00 am
Coffee Fellowship.....	11:00 am
Prison Ministry.....	12:00 pm
Cub Scouts.....	4:00 pm

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2026

Day Care.....	6:00 am
Church Council.....	6:00 pm

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

Day Care.....	6:00 am
Thrive! Support Group.....	6:00 pm

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2026

Day Care.....	6:00 am
Salem Quilters.....	9:30 am
Trillium Works! The Collective	3:00-4:30 pm

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2026

Day Care.....	6:00 am
Keene's Creek Board Meeting.....	7:00 pm

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2026

Day Care.....	6:00 am
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NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

Worship	10:00 am
Coffee Fellowship.....	11:00 am
Cub Scouts.....	4:00 pm

Ongoing September Snack Drive!
You've got one Sunday left!

