

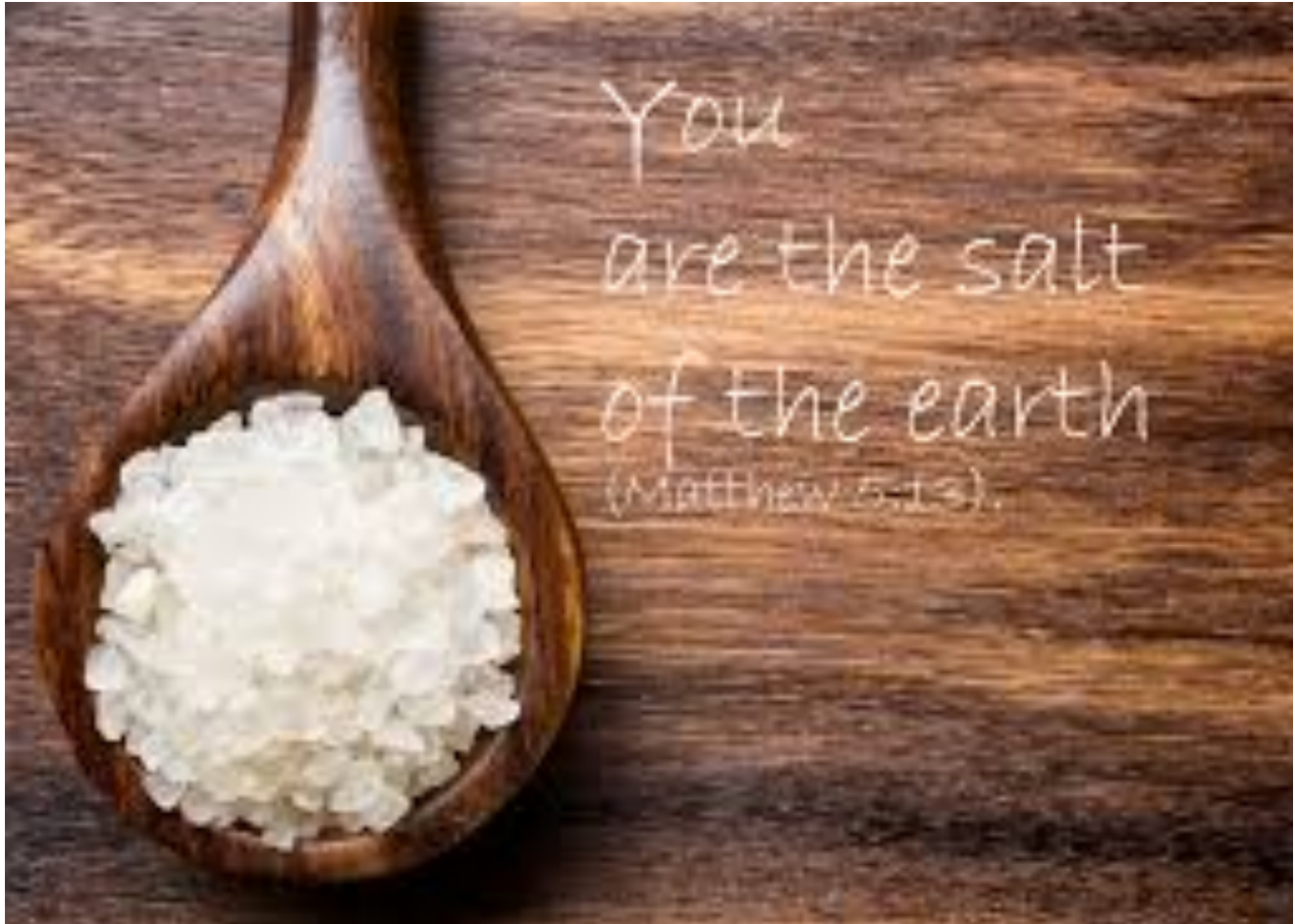
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# WORSHIP AT HOME

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## Prelude

The Prelude to Worship prepares us to leave the world outside surrounding our bodies to enter into the



kingdom of our heart, soul, and mind.

## Lighting the Candles

**Salt preserves, adds flavor, and cures.**

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Lighting a candle draws me out of the world-light to seek the Light of Christ who shines in the darkness of my soul. Opening my Bible to today's reading prepares my mind to hear Jesus speak God's Word that shines in my heart and mind.

Today our Prelude calls us to bring salt to Worship. Shake a little salt on your open Bible. Prepare to Let the salt of God's Word preserve, flavor, and cure your heart, soul, and mind.

## Special Music

I find that instrumental music draws me out of the world and centers me in my heart of feelings.

## Prayer of Confession: teaches us to die to sin.

Confession simply prepares our heart, soul, and mind to die to the power of sin with with Jesus who suffered all our sin. The Holy Spirit is the unseen force who leads us to see, feel, and hear our temptations.

Judgement tempts us with shame, guilt, and blame.

Condemnation is the experience of judgement tempting us to believe we are unworthy of entering God's Presence.

Sacrifice is the experience of judgement and condemnation tempting with what we must change before God will receive us into God's Presence.

Confession is awareness God's light shining in the dark regions of our heart, soul, and mind.

## Prayer of Repentance: teaches us to deny self.

Repentance follows confession. Without confession we do not know what to turn from and to whom we are to turn. Jesus says that he is God in the flesh revealing God's desire for mercy.

Who are the lords of your life. To name them remember your confession. Who are the people, groups, or institutions or nation who control you with their Judgement, Condemnation, and Sacrifices? Who determines that you are right and good, or evil. These are those who persecute you. They are the one you pray for and learn to love as God loves you through Jesus Christ.

## Prayer of Mercy: teaches us to rise in Christ.

**...inside the heart is deaf to God's Word, the soul is dead to God's presence, and the mind is blind to God's love. live in Grace.**

Lord, have mercy! Lord have mercy on me. I have given my persecutors and enemies power to lord over my life. I am tempted to fight, hide, and run but I cannot escape them. Their voices are in my head and heart. My soul is dead. I long to hear you. I hunger for your Word. I thirst for life. In your great mercy, you spoke to me. You led me to experience my temptation not to punish me, but to deliver me.

## Prayer of Reconciliation: teaches us to

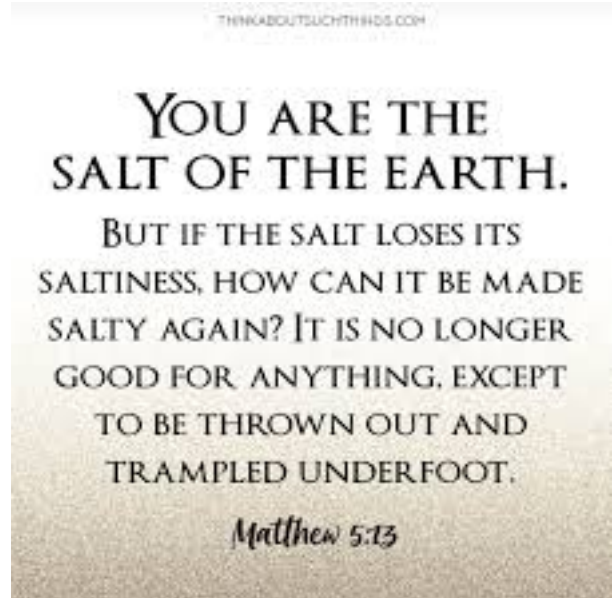
live in Grace. Lord, in my humanity I am vulnerable to judgement, condemnation, and sacrifice. Through Christ, may Lord, I receive Mercy and enter your throne room of Grace where my heart, soul, and mind are healed in your Love.

Spirit of the Living God, lead into the wilderness of my temptations, deliver me in Christ's mercy, restore my soul. Make of me a living sanctuary on earth as it is in heaven.

## The Lord's Prayer

### Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:13

**13** "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.



## Special Music

### Today's Message

Jesus says, "You are the salt of the earth." Before I dive head first into this message, please know I barely made it through General Chemistry. Mr Barr insisted that some natural energy draws sodium and chloride together to form a crystalized relationship we call salt. In the same way the Holy Spirit draws sin and grace together to crystalized a relationship between Humanity and God.

Salt preserves, enhances flavor, and cures. Curing meat with salt does not rid the world of bacteria. The salt allows water to pass out of the meat thus creating an environment where bacteria, though present, will not grow. Curing the heart, soul, and mind of humanity with Grace does not rid the world of sin. It creates an environment where sin, though present, will not grow.

In last week's text Paul spoke about the relationship between human Sin and God's grace. II Corinthians 5: **21** God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. He of whom Paul speaks is Jesus. Jesus is like salt. He is fully Human and fully God bound together to form a crystalized relationship we call the Christ/Messiah.

What does this have to do with our being the Salt of the Earth? As we shall see, Jesus gives us a lot to reconcile. "For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven."

In Matthew 5:17-20 Jesus names four types of salt of the earth. The Salt of the Teacher of the Law. The Salt of the Prophets. The salt of the Pharisees. The salt of the Good News. Like salt, they each form a crystallized relationship which preserves, enhances flavor, and cures.

The Teachers of the Law preserve sin with judgement, condemnation, and oversight of sacrifice. Long before sin is made visible to the World, the sinner's heart and mind paid the penalty. The penalty of sin is death. Why do Teachers of the Law believe judgement, condemnation, and sacrifice has the power to heal the sin wounded heart, soul, and mind of humanity? Teachers of the Law form a crystalized relationship with Moses, not Jesus. They contend that Moses is God's

Word. They enhance the flavor of sin with judgement. They preserve sin with condemnation. Their cure, sacrifice, perpetuates sin, not healing.

The Prophets preserve the relationship the Teachers of the Law have with Moses. They add flavor to judgement, condemnation and sacrifice by encouraging sinners to long and wait for the day God will make a New Covenant with Humanity. They insist that a cure for sin will come when Messiah appears.

The Pharisees preserve the relationship the Prophets have with the Teachers of the Law. They enhance the flavor of our longing and waiting for Messiah by rubbing their salt into our sin-wounds. While sinners wait on Messiah to arrive they offer a cure. Their cure makes sinners look holy on the outside. While inside the heart is deaf to God's Word, the soul is dead to God's presence, and the mind is blind to God's love.

Hear the Good News. The Salt of the World is the crystalized relationship humans have with judgement, condemnation, and sacrifice plus the crystalized relationship Jesus has with mercy, grace, and love.

I barely made it through General Chemistry. I couldn't muster a seed of faith to trust that an invisible force crystalizes sodium and chloride into salt. I suppose seeing, tasting, and hearing is believing. I see how salt preserves food. I taste the way salt enhances the flavor of bland food. I hear that cured meat is surrounded by bacteria looking for a way to grow, infect, and make it rot.

Have you noticed that love and salt have a lot in common. They both add flavor, preserve, and cure. The salt we use reveals the love in our heart, soul, and mind. There is salt that loves to preserve sin. There is salt that loves to cure/heal the sinner's heart, soul, and mind. I hear Jesus say that both are the salt of the earth. Which salt does your love reveal?

One in Christ

Robert

## Tithes and Offerings

2020 Budget Actual:	2021 Proposed Budget
Income: \$150,252	Income: \$137,985
Expenses: \$144,414	Expenses: \$ 137,728

Please remember that our tithes maintain Trinity's physical presence in Wise County. Sharing our witness of the Good News of Jesus Christ makes Disciples. The Church grows in direct proportion to its Witness, not its budget. Just as Jesus is fully human and fully God the church thrives when it focuses on living in the Wise County as the Body of Christ through the Ministry of Reconciliation.

## Special Music

## Postlude

Our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness prepares us to leave the world outside surrounding our bodies to enter into the kingdom of our heart, soul, and mind. We return to the world to teach our neighbors the way of Prelude and Postlude where the first is last and the last is first.

## The Work of Reconciliation: Home Work

1. "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' Who is the "mouth of God"? Our answer reveals our Lord. Throughout the Gospels various lords contend for our heart, soul, and mind. The Sadducees, called the Teachers of the Law, contend that Moses is the mouth of God. The Pharisees have two lords. They contend that Moses is the mouth of God and the Prophets promise the day Messiah will come. The Pharisees lord over how a person waits for Messiah to come. While waiting they miss Messiah is with them.
2. Matthew 9: **10** "While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. **11** When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" **12** On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. **13** But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." Pharisees add to the Sadducees' burden of judgement, condemnation and sacrifice. They add spiritual exercises like oaths, fasting, and alms which they use to makes a person look Holy on the outside without healing the deaf heart, dead soul, or blind mind. Jesus reconciles the Law and the Prophets with mercy. Mercy does not count sin against people.
3. Long before sin becomes an action it has wounded the heart, soul, and mind of the sinner. The Merciful sit and eat with sinners and tax collectors. The merciful have experienced Jesus' mercy. They have witnessed what happens when a person lives on bread alone. When the belly is full the heart, soul, and mind hunger and thirst for righteousness. The Law satisfies our hunger and thirst for righteousness until we are judged and condemned. The Pharisees spiritual exercises intended to make us look Holy on the outside satisfies our hunger and thirst for righteousness until we are judged and condemned for not appearing Holy enough.