Salem Lutheran Church and School

March 11, 2026

How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place

Temple

Lutheran Church **Missouri Synod**

Rev. Dr. Martin Dressler, Pastor 828-206-4556
mdressler@salembjmo.org
Church Office: 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM Monday-Thursday 314-741-6781
5180 Parker Road; Florissant, Missouri 63033 Fax 314-741-1797
School Office: 7:45 AM - 3:45 PM –Jeff Burkee, Principal 314-741-8220
5190 Parker Road; Florissant, Missouri 63033 Fax 314-741-7242
Website: www.salembjmo.org
Church Email: salemchurch@salembjmo.org

Divine Services: Sunday 10:00 AM; Wednesday 7:00 PM

WELCOME to the Lord's House today! May God help us to worship Him in spirit and in truth! Before you leave, guests are requested to sign the guest book, which is located in the narthex. Both guests and members are asked to fill out an attendance card, located in the pews, returning it as you leave. We invite you to return and worship with us again. If you do not have a regular church home, then we invite you to join our family. May this celebration of the mercy of God enrich your spiritual life and be uplifting for each one of you.

INDIVIDUAL HEARING ASSISTANCE SETS are available for those with impaired hearing. Please ask an usher for assistance.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS and **PRINTED COPIES OF THE SERMON** are available in the narthex.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY BAGS are available in the narthex. The bags contain a coloring book, drawing paper, reading books, crayons, and a pencil. Parents are welcome to grab a bag for their children to use during the service. Please remember to replace the bag following worship.

DOORS ARE LOCKED after the service begins. If you need to exit the building, please let an usher know, and they'll wait at the door to let you back inside.

On the cover: H Herod's Temple as imagined in the Holyland Model of Jerusalem. It is currently situated adjacent to the Shrine of the Book exhibit at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem

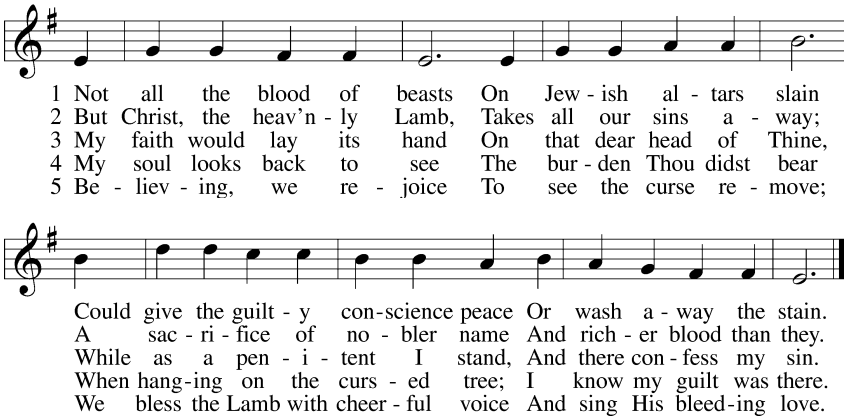
We are Salem, a family nurturing God's children
to live loving lives in faith.

(Please silence your cell phones)

ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: Not All the Blood of Beasts (LSB 877)



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Tune: William Daman, c. 1540–1591

OPENING SENTENCES

P: In the name of ✠ Jesus.
C: Amen.

P: Long ago, in the days of the old covenant,
C: God gave His people the Temple and all the ceremonial law.

P: From feasts to fasts, attire to architecture, solemn assemblies to sacrifices,
C: God spelled out how His people were supposed to worship Him.

P: They were God's gift to His people,
C: designed to remind them of the promise of a Savior.

P: But the people forgot their purpose.
C: They turned worship into a work by which to buy God's favor.

P: We may look back on them with scorn. But in truth, you and I are tempted to do precisely the same thing.
C: I too am tempted by the prideful lie that I can earn God's favor.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Let us then confess our sin to God our Father.

Silence for reflection.

P: Father in heaven,
C: I confess that I have often tried to earn Your favor. I have held my good works over You as if You were my debtor, if even for a moment. Forgive me, Father, for my presumptuousness and pride. Have mercy on me, not because of what I have done, but because of what Jesus has done for me. Amen.

P: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit and a contrite heart, a heart cracked open to receive God's favor as a gift. Through the death of His Son, Jesus Christ, God gives that grace to you now. In the stead and by the command of Jesus, I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father, and of the ✢ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.
C: Merciful Father, You have given Your only Son as the sacrifice for sinners. Grant us grace to receive the fruits of His redeeming work with thanksgiving and daily to follow in His way; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING *2 Chronicles 6:18-21, 7:1-3*

"[Then Solomon said…] But will God indeed dwell with man on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, how much less this house that I have built! Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O LORD my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you, that your eyes may be open day and night toward this house, the place where you have promised to set your name, that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place. And listen to the pleas of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. And listen from heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.

As soon as Solomon finished his prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD filled the LORD's house. When all the people of Israel saw the fire come down and the glory of the LORD on the temple, they bowed down with their faces to the ground on the pavement and worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD, saying, "For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever."

P: O Lord, our God,
C: have mercy upon us.

PSALM 18:1-6, 46-50

P: I love you,
O LORD, my strength.
The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
C: I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,
and I am saved from my enemies.

P: The cords of death encompassed me;
the torrents of destruction assailed me;
C: the cords of Sheol entangled me;
the snares of death confronted me.

P: In my distress I called upon the LORD;
to my God I cried for help.
C: From his temple he heard my voice,
and my cry to him reached his ears.

P: The LORD lives, and blessèd be my rock,
and exalted be the God of my salvation—
the God who gave me vengeance
and subdued peoples under me,
C: who delivered me from my enemies;
yes, you exalted me above those who rose against me;
you rescued me from the man of violence.

P: For this I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations,
and sing to your name.
C: Great salvation he brings to his king,
and shows steadfast love to his anointed,
to David and his offspring forever.

EPISTLE *Colossians 2:16-23*

Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— "Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch" (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

P: O Lord, our God,
C: have mercy upon us.

(Please stand)

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 21:12-17*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.
C: Glory to You, O Lord.

And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers."

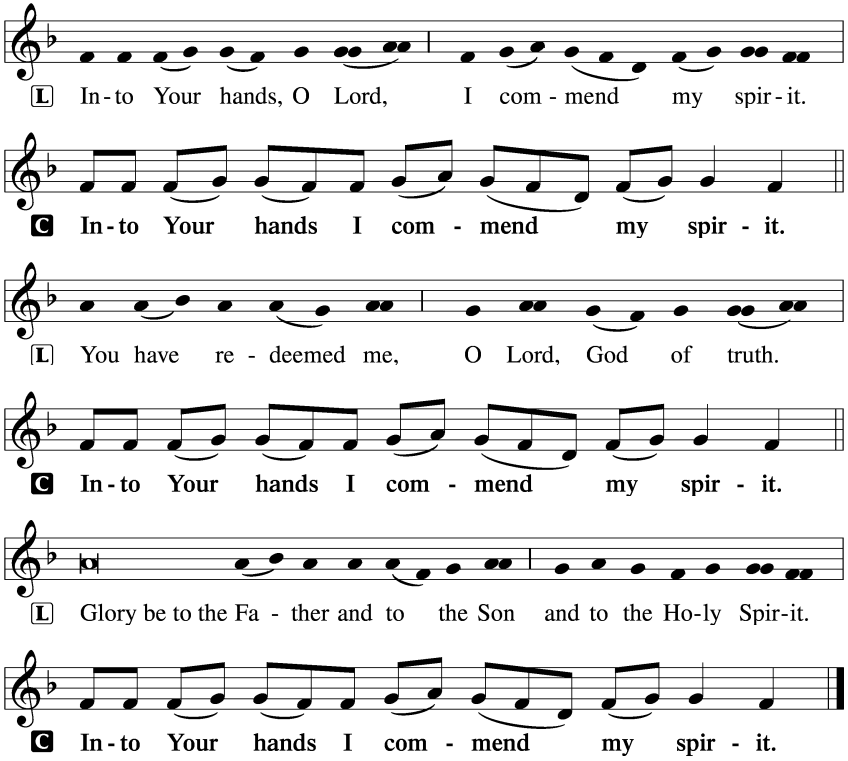
And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant, and they said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read,

"'Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies
you have prepared praise'?"

And leaving them, he went out of the city to Bethany and lodged there.

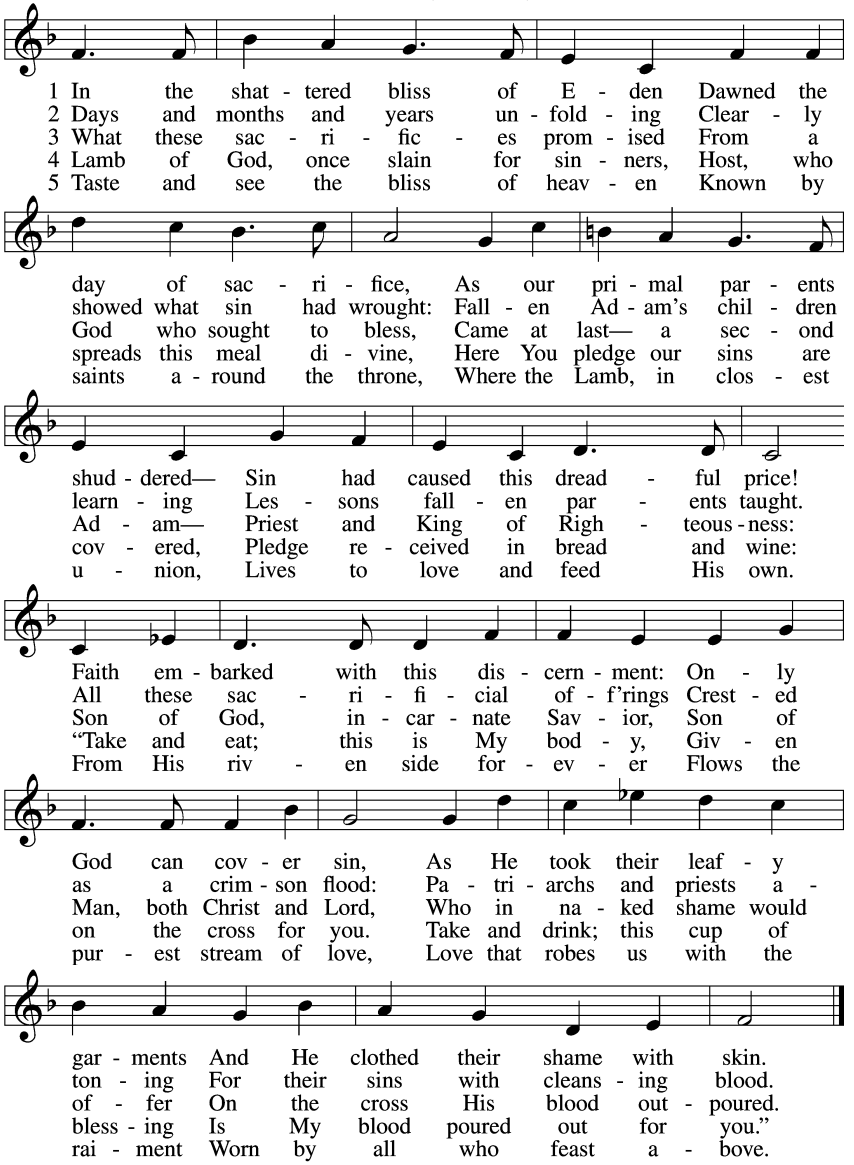
P: O Lord, our God,
C: have mercy upon us.

RESPONSORY



(Please be seated)

HYMN: In the Shattered Bliss of Eden (LSB 572)



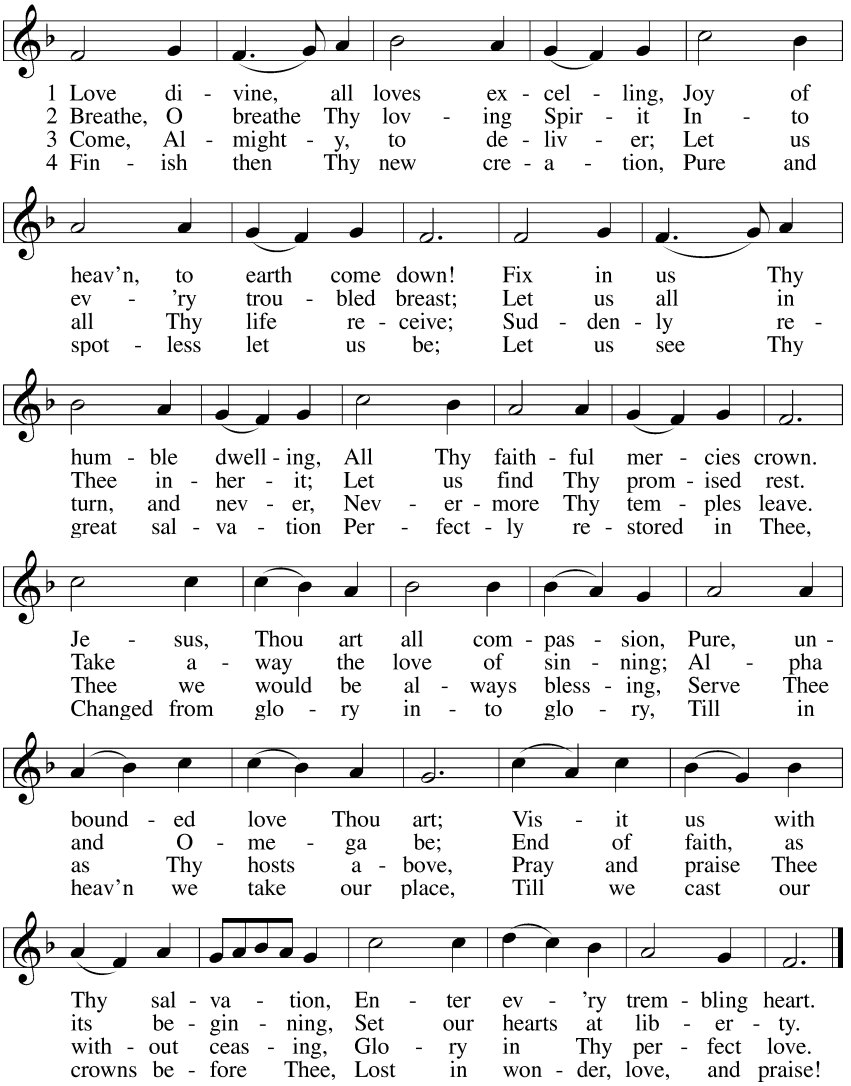
6 Gone the bliss of Eden's garden,
Gone the age of sacrifice;
Ours the time of grace and favor,
Ours the call to paradise!
Ever, Lord, impress upon us:
Only You can cover sin—

Take our worthless, self-made garments;
Clothe our shame and cleanse within.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955
Tune: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

SERMON: "We Prefer the Shadow, Thank You" Colossians 2:16-17
Pastor Dressler

HYMN: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (LSB 700)

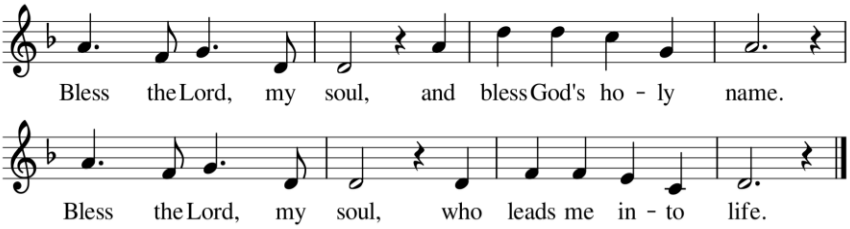


Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88; Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–87

OFFERING

(Please stand)

PRAYERS – *Each petition concludes with "Lord, hear our prayer." Congregation responds with verse below.*



LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

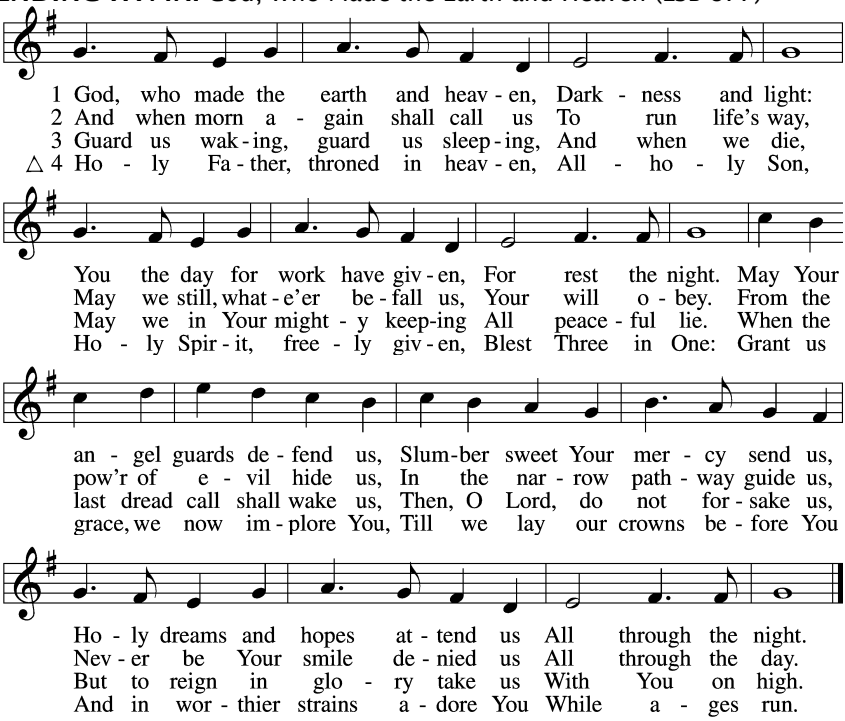
C: Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the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

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

P: Let us bless the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance and ✢ give you peace.
C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven (LSB 877)



Text (st. 1): Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.; (sts. 2, 4): William Mercer, 1811–73, alt.; (st. 3): Richard Whately, 1787–1863, alt.
Tune: Welsh, 18th cent.

Acknowledgments
Lutheran Service Book