

Salem Lutheran Church and School

Established 1849 Black Jack, MO

March 15, 2026

Fourth Sunday in Lent



Lutheran Church



Missouri Synod

Rev. Dr. Martin Dressler, Pastor

828-206-4556

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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.salemchurch.org

Church Email: salemchurch@salemchurch.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.

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS are available on the table in the narthex. These feature a coloring sheet and activities for children based on the Scripture readings of the day. Please help yourself.

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: "Healing of the Man Born Blind," El Greco, 1567.

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

HOLY COMMUNION

In accordance with the historic practice of the Christian Church, our congregation practices close communion, meaning that normally our members and members of our sister (LCMS) congregations commune here. Please speak to the pastor about exceptions to this general practice. Please also note that this practice in no way intends to comment on the state of anyone else's faith: we simply understand our communing together is also a public profession of unity in doctrine, which not everyone shares. Those who do not commune here may come forward for a blessing (simply fold your arms over your heart to indicate that you are not communing) or remain in the pew during communion and pray.

LIFE THOUGHT

Sin makes us blind to the things of God (Isaiah 42:16, 18). Not only do we often fail to recognize our neighbors and the many needs they have, but we also have a hard time seeing our own lack of love (John 9:41) and need for salvation. Thankfully, Jesus has come to open our blind eyes and turn our darkness into light (John 9:6, Isaiah 42:16). The Lord not only grants us faith to see Him and know His salvation, He also empowers us to "walk as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8) to better see and serve our neighbors in need, from the least of them to the greatest.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

O Lord, our creator, redeemer, and comforter, as we come together to worship You in spirit and in truth, we humbly pray that You would open our hearts to the preaching of Your Word so that we may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus Christ as our only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear us for His sake. Amen.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Preacher:	Pastor Martin Dressler
Fieldworker:	Nick Vukalovich
Organist:	Kathleen Stahlhut
Greeter:	Sharon Lichtenberg
Prayer Team:	Bob & Karen Becker

(Please silence your cell phones)

ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: O Day of Rest and Gladness (LSB 906)



1 O day of rest and glad - ness, O day of joy and light,
2 This day at earth's cre - a - tion The light first had its birth;
3 This day, God's peo - ple meet - ing, His Ho - ly Scrip - ture hear;
△ 4 That light our hope sus - tain - ing, We walk the pil - grim way,



O balm of care and sad - ness, Most beau - ti - ful, most bright;
This day for our sal - va - tion Christ rose from depths of earth;
His liv - ing pres - ence greet - ing, Through bread and wine made near.
At length our rest at - tain - ing, Our end - less Sab - bath day.



This day the high and low - ly, Through a - ges joined to bless,
This day our Lord vic - to - rious The Spir - it sent from heav'n,
We jour - ney on, be - liev - ing, Re - newed with heav'n - ly might,
We sing to Thee our prais - es, O Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son;



Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," The tri - une God con - fess.
And thus this day most glo - rious A three - fold light was giv'n.
From grace more grace re - ceiv - ing, On this blest day of light.
The Church her voice up - rais - es To Thee, blest Three in One.

Text (sts. 1-2): Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-85, alt.; (st. 3): Charles P. Price, 1920-99; (st. 4):
The Hymnal 1982

Tune: Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Hofkapelle, 1784, Württemberg

Text (sts. 1-2) and tune: Public domain

Text (st. 3) and tune: © 1982 Charles P. Price; (st. 4): © 1985 The Church Pension Fund. Used by
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INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

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

C: Amen!

P: On Galilee's shore, Jesus extended an invitation to the first disciples.
He said,

C: "Follow Me!"

P: To Matthew who sat counting taxes at his desk, Jesus said,

C: "Follow Me!"

P: To those who wanted to be His disciples, Jesus said,

C: "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me."

P: Brothers and sisters, in the waters of baptism, Jesus extended an invitation to you as well. He said,

C: "Follow Me!"

+++

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: But we know that we have not always accepted that invitation. Together, let us confess our failure to be the disciples God has called us to be.

Silence to reflect on your need for a Savior.

P: Almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I confess to You that I have failed. I have not lived faithfully as Your creature or followed Jesus as His disciple. I have often rejected Your call because it is difficult. At times, I have let my sinful nature take control instead of taking up my cross. Forgive me, Father, for flirting with sin. Forgive me for not fully embracing the new life You have given me through Your Son. For His sake, have mercy on me.

P: Jesus did not reject the call to be our Savior. He died on the cross for your sins. He knew them all, every last one of them. He took your sin, and in exchange He has given you His righteousness. Therefore, hear this Word of God to you: I forgive your sin in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: In this season of Lent, hear again the call of Jesus. He says,

C: "Follow Me!"

P: Then let us deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow Him.

C: Amen.

+++

KYRIE

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

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HYMN: Abide, O Dearest Jesus (LSB 919)



1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, A - mong us with Your grace
2 A - bide, O dear Re - deem - er, A - mong us with Your Word,
3 A - bide with heav'n - ly bright - ness A - mong us, pre - cious Light;
4 A - bide with rich - est bless - ings A - mong us, boun - teous Lord;



That Sa - tan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.
And thus now and here - af - ter True peace and joy af - ford.
Your truth di - rect and keep us From er - ror's gloom - y night.
Let us in grace and wis - dom Grow dai - ly through Your Word.

- 5 Abide with Your protection
Among us, Lord, our strength,
Lest world and Satan fell us
And overcome at length.
- 6 Abide, O faithful Savior,
Among us with Your love;
Grant steadfastness and help us
To reach our home above.

Text: Josua Stegmann, 1588-1632; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.
Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570-1615



SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

C: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 42:14-21

For a long time I have held my peace;
I have kept still and restrained myself;
now I will cry out like a woman in labor;
I will gasp and pant.
I will lay waste mountains and hills,
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn the rivers into islands,
and dry up the pools.
And I will lead the blind
in a way that they do not know,
in paths that they have not known
I will guide them.
I will turn the darkness before them into light,
the rough places into level ground.
These are the things I do,
and I do not forsake them.
They are turned back and utterly put to shame,
who trust in carved idols,
who say to metal images,
"You are our gods."
Hear, you deaf,
and look, you blind, that you may see!
Who is blind but my servant,
or deaf as my messenger whom I send?
Who is blind as my dedicated one,
or blind as the servant of the LORD?
He sees many things, but does not observe them;
his ears are open, but he does not hear.
The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake,
to magnify his law and make it glorious.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 142



P: With my voice I cry out | to the LORD;*
with my voice I plead for mercy | to the LORD.

C: I pour out my complaint be- | fore him;*
I tell my trouble be- | fore him.

P: When my spirit faints within me,
you | know my way!*

In the path where I walk
they have hidden a | trap for me.

C: Look to the right and see:
there is none who takes notice | of me;*
no refuge remains to me;
no one cares | for my soul.

P: I cry to you, | O LORD;*
I say, "You are my refuge,
my portion in the land of the | living."

C: Attend to my cry,
for I am brought | very low!*
Deliver me from my persecutors,
for they are too | strong for me!

P: Bring me out of prison,
that I may give thanks | to your name!*

The righteous will surround me,
for you will deal bountifully | with me.

+++

EPISTLE

Ephesians 5:8-14

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

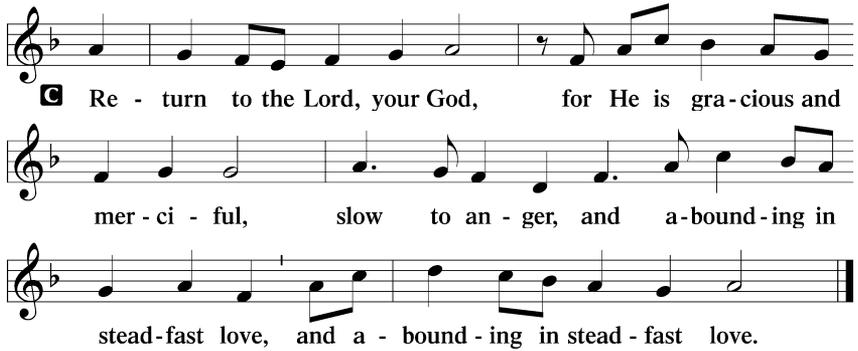
"Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



C Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra-cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a-bound-ing in
stead-fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing...

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." . . .

They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

C: I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from
heaven

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living
and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

(Please be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN: Every Promise (Keith Getty and Stuart Townend)



1. From the break-ing of the dawn to the set-ting of the
2. When I stum-ble and I sin, con-dem - na-tion press-ing
3. When I'm faced with an-guished choice, I will lis - ten for Your
4. Hope that lifts me from de - spair; Love that casts out ev - 'ry

sun, I will stand on ev-'ry promise of Your word.
 in, I will stand on ev-'ry promise of Your word.
 voice, and I'll stand on ev-'ry promise of Your word.
 fear, as I stand on ev-'ry promise of Your word.

Words of pow - er, strong to save, that will nev - er pass a -
 You are faith - ful to for - give, that in free - dom I might
 Through this dark and trou - bled land, You will guide me with Your
 Not for - sak - en, not a - lone, for the Com - fort - er has

way; I will stand on ev-'ry promise of Your word.
 live. So I stand on ev-'ry promise of Your word.
 hand, as I stand on ev-'ry promise of Your word.
 come; And I stand on ev-'ry promise of Your word.

For Your cov - e - nant is sure, and on this I am se -
 Guilt to in - no - cence re - stored; You re - mem - ber sins no
 And You've prom - ised to com - plete ev - 'ry work be - gun in
 Grace suf - fi - cient, grace for me; Grace for all who will be -

cure: I can stand on ev-'ry promise from Your word.
 more. So I'll stand on ev-'ry promise of Your word.
 me. So I'll stand on ev-'ry promise of Your word.
 lieve. We will stand on ev-'ry promise of Your word.

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SERMON: "Glorious Mud" John 9:2-3

Pastor Dressler

OFFERING (*prayer requests*)

STEWARDSHIP VERSE - "I cry to you, O Lord; I say, 'You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.'" Psalm 142:5

(Please stand.)

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

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
U - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.

Translation: Where charity and love are found, God is there (based on 1 John 4:16)

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SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Please see communion information in the front of the bulletin. Follow the direction of the usher to approach the altar. Gluten-free wafers are available by request.

PREFACE

LSB 160

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 Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 161

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Bless-ed is He who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

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.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 962

Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; grant us Your peace, grant us Your peace, grant us Your peace.

Text: Traditional; tr. International Consultation on English Texts, alt.

Tune: Paul D. Weber, 1949

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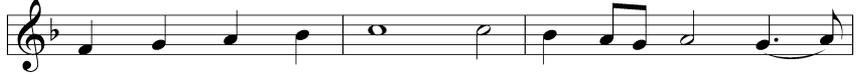


(Please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: O Son of God, In Galilee (LSB 841)



1 O Son of God, in Gal - i - lee You
 2 O lis - ten to the si - lent prayer Of
 3 The speech - less tongue, the life - less ear You
 4 Mean - while to them the lis - t'ning ear Of
 5 Then in Your prom - ised hap - py land Each



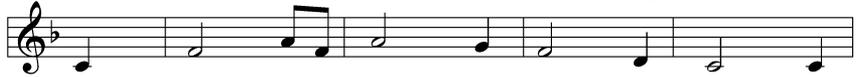
made the deaf to hear, The mute to speak, the
 Your af - flict - ed ones. O bid them cast on
 can re - store, O Lord; Your "Eph - pha - tha," O
 stead - fast faith im - part, And let Your Word bring
 loss will prove a gain; All mys - t'ries we shall



blind to see; O bless - ed Lord, be near.
 You their care; Your grace to them make known.
 Sav - ior dear, Can in - stant help af - ford.
 light and cheer To ev - 'ry trou - bled heart.
 un - der - stand, For You will make them plain.

Text: Anna B. D. Hoppe, 1889-1941, alt.
 Tune: Lucius Chapin, 1760-1842
 Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003345

Amazing Grace (LSB 744)



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That
 2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
 have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me
 mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, Was blind but now I see!
 por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
 safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
 then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.
 sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

Text (sts. 1-4): John Newton, 1725-1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond
 Tune: Columbian Harmony, 1829, Cincinnati

Jesus, Grant that Balm and Healing (LSB 421)



1 Je - sus, grant that balm and heal - ing In Your ho - ly
 2 Should some lust or sharp temp - ta - tion Fas - ci - nate my
 3 If the world my heart en - tic - es With the broad and
 4 Ev - 'ry wound that pains or grieves me By Your wounds, Lord,
 5 O my God, my rock and tow - er, Grant that in Your



wounds I find, Ev - 'ry hour that I am feel - ing Pains of
 sin - ful mind, Draw me to Your cross and pas - sion, And new
 eas - y road, With se - duc - tive, sin - ful vi - ces, Let me
 is made whole; When I'm faint, Your cross re - vives me, Grant - ing
 death I trust, Know - ing death has lost its pow - er Since You



bod - y and of mind. Should some e - vil thought with - in
 cour - age I shall find. Or should Sa - tan press me hard,
 weigh the aw - ful load You were will - ing to en - dure.
 new life to my soul. Yes, Your com - fort ren - ders sweet
 crushed it in the dust. Sav - ior, let Your ag - o - ny



Tempt my treach - 'rous heart to sin, Show the per - il, and from
 Let me then be on my guard, Say - ing, "Christ for me was
 Help me flee all thoughts im - pure And to mas - ter each temp -
 Ev - 'ry bit - ter cup I meet; For Your all - a - ton - ing
 Ev - er help and com - fort me; When I die be my pro -



sin - ning Keep me from its first be - gin - ning.
 wound - ed," That the tempt - er flee con - found - ed.
 ta - tion, Calm in prayer and med - i - ta - tion.
 pas - sion Has pro - cured my soul's sal - va - tion.
 tec - tion, Light and life and res - ur - rec - tion.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. composite, alt.
 Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691-1758

(Please stand)

NUNC DIMITTIS

1 Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace,
2 This is the Sav - ior of the world,
△ 3 With saints of old, with saints to come,

Your word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -
The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing
To You we lift our voice; To Fa - ther, Son, and

va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.
in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.
Spir - it blest Be hon - or, love, and praise.

Text (sts. 1-2): James Quinn, 1919-2010; (st. 3): Henry V. Gerike, 1948-2025

Tune: American

Text (sts. 1-2): © 1969, 1989 OCP Publications; (st. 3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003345

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

P: Let us bless the Lord.

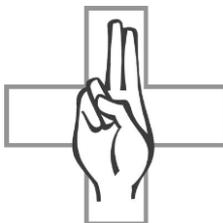
C: Thanks be to God.

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 upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.



CLOSING HYMN: Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness (LSB 849)



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955

Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia

Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003345

Please turn in your attendance card as you leave.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK -

"Lord Jesus Christ, you were poor and in distress, a captive and forsaken as I am. You know man's troubles; you abide with me. When all men fail me, you remember and seek me."

—A prayer by Dietrich Bonhoeffer when in a Nazi prison

PRAYER CORNER

Almighty God, grant that Your holy word which has been proclaimed this day may enter into our hearts through Your grace, that it may produce in us the fruit of the Spirit for witness and service in the world and to the praise and honor of Your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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LENT WORSHIP AT SALEM: **“How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place!”**

These special services will continue every Wednesday through March 25. Worship is held at 4PM and 7PM, and we have a supper in between!

Palm Sunday is March 29, and Holy Week services will be held on Maundy Thursday (April 2), Good Friday (April 3), Holy Saturday (April 4), and Easter Sunday (April 5). There will be no worship service on Wednesday, April 1.

OUR FATHER'S BUSINESS
For the week of March 15 through March 22

- TODAY: *Genesis 41:28-57; Mark 11:20-33*
Bible Study and Sunday School 8:45AM
DIVINE SERVICE with COMMUNION 10:00AM
- MONDAY: *Genesis 42:1-34. 38; Mark 12:1-12*
Confirmation Class 7:00PM
- TUESDAY: *Genesis 43:1-28; Mark 12:13-27*
Church Council 7:00PM
- WEDNESDAY: *Genesis 44:1-18, 32-34; Mark 12:28-44*
School Chapel 8:45AM
Newsletter and Voters Booklet Deadline 9:00AM
Lent Worship 4:00PM & 7:00PM
Souper Supper 5:00PM
- THURSDAY: *Genesis 45:1-20, 24-28; Mark 13:1-23*
Shoebox Party 10AM-2PM
- FRIDAY: *Genesis 47:1-31; Mark 13:24-37*
Book of Joshua Bible Study 10:30-12N
- SATURDAY: *Genesis 49:29—50:7, 14-26; Mark 14:1-11*
- NEXT SUNDAY: Bible Study and Sunday School 8:45AM
DIVINE SERVICE with COMMUNION 10:00AM

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A MEASURE OF LOVE FOR OUR LORD -Week of March 8, 2026
Sunday School 8 students, 3 teachers
Friday Bible Class 7

Worship Service Attendance
Sunday, March 8 - 87
Wednesday, March 11 - 35 + 13

Online views
Sunday, March 8 - 12
Wednesday, March 11 -3

Tithes and Offerings (Weekly Budget: \$8,200.00)
March 8: Physical-\$6,387.00; Online-\$1,487.40
Total-\$7,874.40

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. BIBLE STUDY There is a lot to be anxious about these days, especially on the geo-political front. But Jesus tells us not to be anxious. How can we follow His command? Join us for Sunday morning Bible study to find out.

To access by phone: 312 626 6799. Follow the prompts once you dial in to enter the Meeting ID when asked (271 170 8930 #). When asked to enter participant code hit the # key, and then it will ask for the password (523312#).

To access online: Go to Zoom.com. Click "join a meeting" at the top of the page, and enter 271 170 8930 in meeting ID box. The passcode is sPzuL5. Questions? Call the office! 314-741-6781.

2. TODAY IN SUNDAY SCHOOL – We studied the story of the Pool of Siloam based on the scripture John 9: 1-41. Jesus heals a blind man that He and His disciples encounter in their travels. There were lots of questions by the people and the Pharisees. Jesus heals us of our physical and spiritual blindness through His work on the cross. May we always be thankful for the healing we receive and rejoice with thanksgiving.

3. TO GIVE ONLINE, head to <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZXSD/campaign/C-162XV>. There, you can set up your account. If you have any questions, please speak to Lisa Briggs, Elin Hogan-Gomez, or Nancy Joy.

4. OUR NEXT HYMN SING will be coming up NEXT SUNDAY, March 22. It will begin roughly at 9:45AM and will take the place of the usual preservice music. We will focus **only** on selections from LSB 418-456.

5. SOUPER SUPPERS will be served in the church basement between the 4:00PM and 7:00PM Lent worship services, beginning at about 5:00PM. The menu for this Wednesday is corned beef & cabbage, brisket, parsley potatoes, green beans, dessert, and beverage. Proceeds from the free will offering will be shared between our Lutherans for Life chapter and the Salem Benevolent Fund.

6. THE MARCH ISSUE OF the Lutheran Witness (LW) magazine explores the Lutheran doctrine of vocation. It is that God Himself works through human beings as they carry out their callings—vocations—life's work. Martin Luther considered every God-given role as a part of his or her calling—the work of a mother caring for her toddler just as God-pleasing as a pastor consecrating the elements at Holy Communion. The Large Catechism references how God cares for the baby through the nursing mother and how God nourishes us all by means of farmers who grow our food. Take the magazine home with you. Read it. Return it next Sunday, for sure in two Sundays. It is displayed on the LW table in the narthex.

7. THE MARCH VOTERS' MEETING will be held on Tuesday, March 24, at 7:00 p.m. in the church basement and on Zoom. To connect via your computer, please go to www.zoom.com/join and then enter the following meeting ID: 968 6885 3909. If prompted for a password, enter 5180. If you need to join via phone call instead: (312) 626-6799 or (309) 205-3325. Follow the prompts once you dial in to enter the Meeting ID when asked (968 6885 3909 #), when asked to enter participant code hit the # key, and then it will ask for the password (5180#).

8. EASTER LILIES - It's time to place your order for Easter lilies. They are \$16.00, and order forms are available in the Narthex. Please order by Monday, March 30.

9. THE LUTHERAN RESALE SHOP (6701 West Florissant) is looking for volunteers for March 23. We are looking for men and women who will hang our "previously loved" spring clothing. Volunteers can sit or stand while doing this. We need several volunteers to arrange our greeting cards, who can sort vintage linens or who have an eye for arranging items for sale. Please bring a sack lunch and a friend. We start at 10 am and leave at 3 pm.(or when you can make it). Please call if you can volunteer 314-389-9970 or Jane at 314-706-6230. Thanks!

10. EASTER EGG HUNT We will again host an Easter egg hunt for members and friends, on **Saturday, April 4, at 10:00AM**. The event will feature craft and coloring opportunities, of course, eggs filled with candy!

If you were able to participate last year, you know that this was a very successful event—even with the rain! **Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect!**

We need:

- folks to chat with the adults who bring their children
- people to offer light supervision of the crafting stations
- help with cleaning up

We will also be collecting small *individually wrapped* candies that can fit inside the eggs. Small toys/trinkets are also welcome! Donations can be brought to the church office, or you can bring them with you when you come for church and leave the items in the designated basket in the Narthex. We also need a few volunteers to help stuff the eggs on the evening of **Monday, March 30**. Questions? Please call/email Pastor or Elin!

11. PALM SUNDAY is March 29, and our 10:00AM service will include a palm processional—and a coat/blanket collection! Time to clean out your closets and bring in your gently used coats, jackets, and blankets that you can pass along to someone else to enjoy.

SCHOOL NEWS



Spring Break

Spring break will take place the week of March 23-27. Each spring, students and teachers alike eagerly look forward to this time off. It is a great opportunity to catch a break in between Presidents' Day weekend and the end of the school year. While Easter certainly provides a short rest, spring break is our last long break before the school year wraps up.

Book Fair

The Book Fair was a huge success, thanks to the efforts of Susan Scherer and the parents who helped her. Susan spearheaded the event, and both parents and students thoroughly enjoyed it. We brought in over \$760 in sales! Thank you, Susan, for doing such a great job. I would also like to add a special thank you to Keith Scherer for moving the tables to the classroom where the fair was held.

Registration Open

Registration is now open for the 2026-2027 academic year. We encourage you to tell your friends, relatives, and neighbors about Salem and our 165-year history of providing quality Christian-Lutheran education to this community. God has richly blessed Salem, and we want others to experience the same quality Christian education that so many have received over the years.

Important Dates

Salem will have a half-day of school on Thursday, April 2nd, and will be closed on Friday, April 3rd, and Monday, April 6th. Graduation will be on May 15, and the last day of school will be on May 22.

Mid-Trimester

On April 10th, Mid-Trimester Reports will be sent home with the students. This is the last report of this nature, as we are now in the final trimester of the 2025-2026 academic year.

Valley of the Flowers Parade

Salem will once again be represented in the Valley of the Flowers Parade on Sunday, May 3rd! Please plan on helping with this fun project. We will have a float again this year, so if you cannot help build it, please plan to ride on it.

Have You Watched Our Videos?

Have you had a chance to see our school in action? Search for "Salem Lutheran School Black Jack, MO" online to find numerous videos showcasing our ministry. We invite you to take a few minutes to watch and share them!