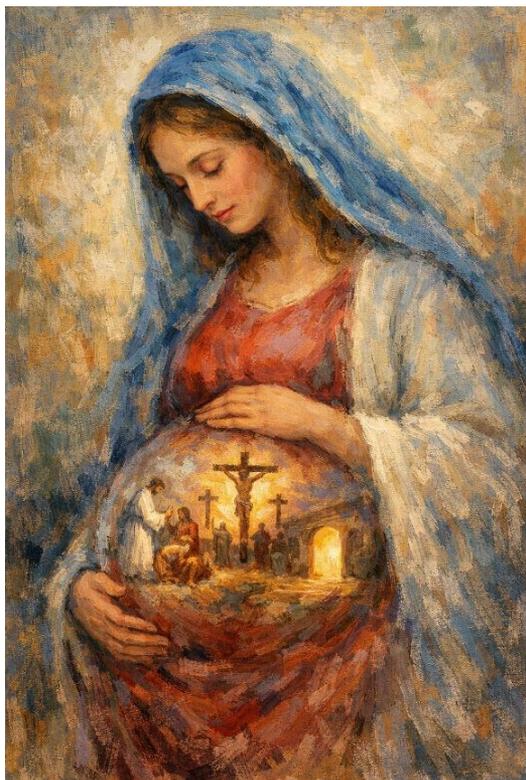


Salem Lutheran Church and School

March 18, 2026

How Lovely Is Your Dwelling Place

Mary's Womb



Lutheran Church



Missouri Synod

Rev. Dr. Martin Dressler, Pastor

828-206-4556

mdressler@salemchurch.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.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.

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.

*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: Of the Father's Love Begotten (LSB 384, stzs 1-2, 5)

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,
△ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly

gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing

He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -

have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face
min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry

Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348-c. 413; (sts. 1-2): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821-77

Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V



OPENING SENTENCES

P: In the name of † Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: Long ago, in the land of Midian,

C: **Moses marveled that God would locate Himself in the flame of a burning bush.**

P: Long ago, in the city of Jerusalem,

C: **Solomon marveled that God would locate Himself in the Temple.**

P: But in the greatest mystery of all – long ago, in a town called Nazareth,

C: **Mary marveled that God would locate Himself in her womb.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Brothers and sisters, God the Son willingly chose to dwell, not in the huge, not in the ornate, not in the sublime, but in the smallest of spaces. And in this way, by taking on our human nature and living as the perfect man, He would pave the way for our reconciliation with the Father. Let us then turn to the Father, seeking His grace and forgiveness for the sake of the One who became small for us.

Silence to reflect on our need for a Savior.

P: Merciful Father,

C: **I, a poor sinner, plead guilty of all sins. I have lived as if You did not matter and as if I mattered most. I have not honored Your name as I should; my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not let Your love have its way with me, and so my love for others has failed. There are those whom I have hurt, and those whom I have failed to help. My thoughts and desires have been soiled with sin. I am sorry for all of this and ask for grace. I want to do better. Have mercy on me for the sake of Him who gave all for my salvation. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.



COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; 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

Isaiah 7:1-14

In the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, son of Uzziah, king of Judah, Rezin the king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah the king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to wage war against it, but could not yet mount an attack against it. When the house of David was told, "Syria is in league with Ephraim," the heart of Ahaz and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind.

And the LORD said to Isaiah, "Go out to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-jashub your son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Washer's Field. And say to him, 'Be careful, be quiet, do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint because of these two smoldering stumps of firebrands, at the fierce anger of Rezin and Syria and the son of Remaliah. Because Syria, with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah, has devised evil against you, saying, "Let us go up against Judah and terrify it, and let us conquer it for ourselves, and set up the son of Tabeel as king in the midst of it," thus says the Lord GOD:

"It shall not stand,
and it shall not come to pass.
For the head of Syria is Damascus,
and the head of Damascus is Rezin.

(Within sixty-five years Ephraim will be broken to pieces so that it will no longer be a people.)

"And the head of Ephraim is Samaria,
and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah.
If you are not firm in faith,
you will not be firm at all."

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

P: O Lord, our God,

C: have mercy upon us.

PSALM 139:1-16

P: O LORD, you have searched me and known me!
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

**C: You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.**

P: Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.

**C: You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.**

P: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is high; I cannot attain it.

**C: Where shall I go from your Spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?**

P: If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

**C: If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me.**

P: If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light about me be night,"
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is bright as the day,
for darkness is as light with you.

**C: For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.**

P: I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

**C: Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.**

P: My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

**C: Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there were none of them.**

EPISTLE

Hebrews 1:1-13

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he

created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be to him a father,
and he shall be to me a son”?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

Of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds,
and his ministers a flame of fire.”

But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.
You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

And,

“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like a garment,
like a robe you will roll them up,
like a garment they will be changed.
But you are the same,
and your years will have no end.”

And to which of the angels has he ever said,

“Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”?

P: O Lord, our God,

C: have mercy upon us.



(Please stand)

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

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

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

P: O Lord, our God,

C: **have mercy upon us.**

RESPONSORY



L In-to Your hands, O Lord, I com - mend my spir - it.



C In-to Your hands I com - mend my spir - it.



L You have re - deemed me, O Lord, God of truth.



C In-to Your hands I com - mend my spir - it.



L Glory be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it.



C In-to Your hands I com - mend my spir - it.



(Please be seated)

HYMN: My Song Is Love Unknown (LSB 430)



1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to
2 He came from His blest throne Sal - va - tion to be -
3 Some-times they strew His way And His sweet prais - es
4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and



me, Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly
stow; But men made strange, and none The longed - for Christ would
sing; Re - sound - ing all the day Ho - san - nas to their
spite? He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their

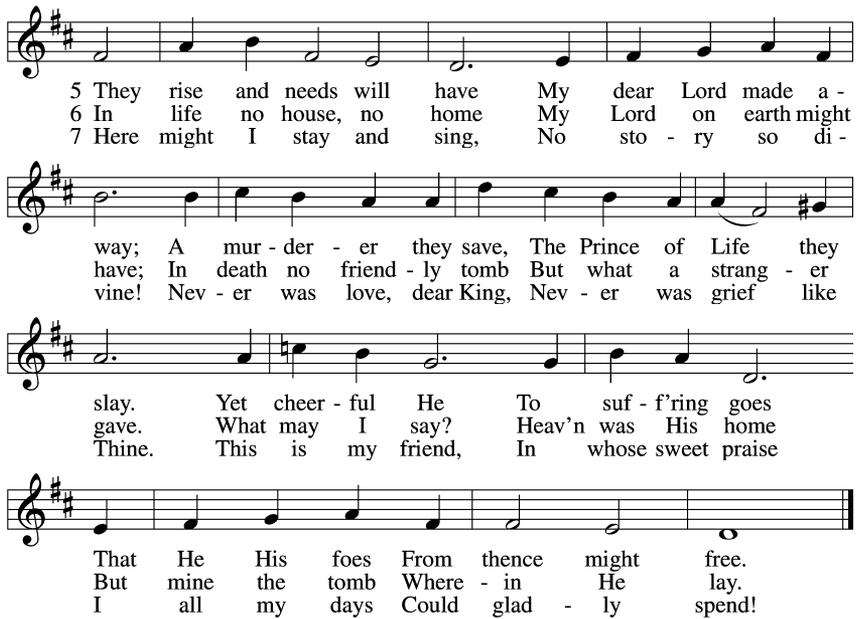


be. Oh, who am I That for my sake
know. But, oh, my friend, My friend in - deed,
King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" Is all their breath,
sight. Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at these



My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
Who at my need His life did spend!
And for His death They thirst and cry.
Them-selves dis - please And 'gainst Him rise.

Hymn continues on following page



5 They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made a -
 6 In life no house, no home My Lord on earth might
 7 Here might I stay and sing, No sto - ry so di -
 way; A mur - der - er they save, The Prince of Life they
 have; In death no friend - ly tomb But what a strang - er like
 vine! Nev - er was love, dear King, Nev - er was grief like
 slay. Yet cheer - ful He To suf - f'ring goes
 gave. What may I say? Heav'n was His home
 Thine. This is my friend, In whose sweet praise
 That He His foes From thence might free.
 But mine the tomb Where - in He lay.
 I all my days Could glad - ly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624-1683

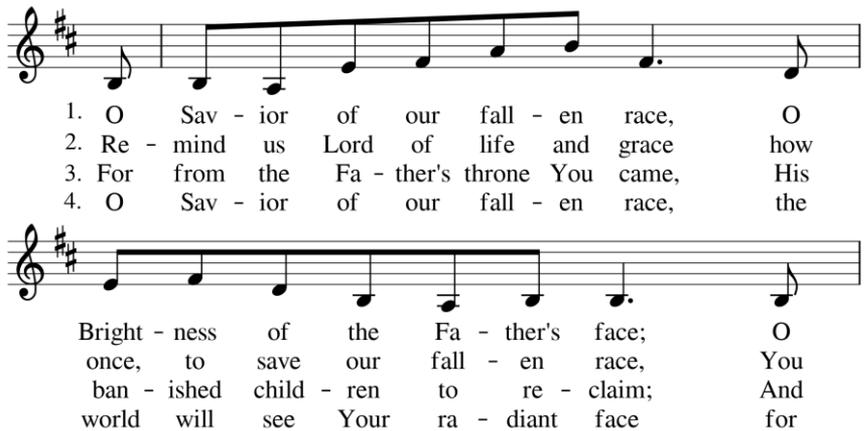
Tune: John N. Ireland, 1879-1962

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SERMON: "The Infinite Infant" John 1:14

Pastor Dressler

HYMN: O Savior, of Our Fallen Race (Keith Getty)



1. O Sav - ior of our fall - en race, O
 2. Re - mind us Lord of life and grace how
 3. For from the Fa - ther's throne You came, His
 4. O Sav - ior of our fall - en race, the
 Bright - ness of the Fa - ther's face; O
 once, to save our fall - en race, You
 ban - ished child - ren to re - claim; And
 world will see Your ra - diant face for



Son who shared the Fa - ther's might be -
 put our hu - man ves - ture on and
 earth and sea and sky re - vere the
 You who came to us be - fore will



fore the world knew day or night. O
 came to us as Mar - y's son. To -
 love of Him who sent You here. And
 come a - gain and all re - store. Let



Je - sus ver - y Light of light Our
 day, as year by year its light brings
 we are ju - bi - lant to - day, For
 songs of praise Your name a - dorn, O



con - stant star in sin's deep night: Now
 to our world a pro - mise bright, one
 You have washed our guilt a - way. O
 Christ, Re - deem - er, vir - gin - born whom



hear the prayers Your peo - ple pray Through -
 pre - cious truth out - shines the sun: Sal -
 hear the glad new song we sing on
 with the Fa - ther we a - dore and



out the world this ho - ly day.
 va - tion comes from You a - lone.
 this, the birth of Christ, our King!
 Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

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: Christ, Mighty Savior (LSB 881)



1 Christ, might - y Sav - ior, Light of all cre - a - tion,
 2 Now comes the day's end as the sun is set - ting,
 3 There - fore we come now eve - ning rites to of - fer,
 4 Give heed, we pray You, to our sup - pli - ca - tion,
 5 Though bod - ies slum - ber, hearts shall keep their vig - il,



You make the day - time ra - diant with the sun - light
 Mir - ror of day - break, pledge of res - ur - rec - tion;
 Joy - ful - ly chant - ing ho - ly hymns to praise You,
 That You may grant us par - don for of - fens - es,
 For - ev - er rest - ing in the peace of Je - sus,



And to the night give glit - ter - ing a -
 While in the heav - ens choirs of stars ap -
 With all cre - a - tion join - ing hearts and
 Strength for our weak hearts, rest for ach - ing
 In light or dark - ness wor - ship - ing our



dorn - ment, Stars in the heav - ens.
 pear - ing Hal - low the night - fall.
 voic - es Sing - ing Your glo - ry.
 bod - ies, Sooth - ing the wea - ry.
 Sav - ior Now and for - ev - er.

Text: Latin, c. 7th cent.; tr. Alan McDougall, 1895-1966; rev. Anne K. LeCroy, 1927-2016

Tune: Richard W. Dirksen, 1921-2003

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Lutheran Service Book

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