



# Fourth Sunday of Lent

**Sunday, March 15, 2026**

**9 a.m. Divine Service**

**10:30 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class**

**Rev. Jonah J. A. Schultz, Pastor**

**Deaconess Linda Strubbe | Principal Joy Reitsma | Music Director Bruce Engebrecht**

## Lent 4a

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Psalm 142:5 – “I cry to you, O LORD; I say, ‘You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.’” The Lord is our portion, our refuge, our everything. His mercy preserves us through all our days in the land of the living. This confidence frees us from the fear that so often leads to sins of greed and coveting. We have the Lord, we have a Father, He is in control, so we can follow His Word in confidence.

## The Sacrament of the Altar

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In the Divine Service, we eat and drink the body and blood of Jesus, given and shed for the forgiveness of sins, salvation from death and hell, and life everlasting. This meal is much more than a symbol or expression of faith. It’s the substantial Son of God giving Himself—His own body and blood—to His people. With deep thankfulness for Jesus Christ’s gifts to us here at Salem, we desire to celebrate the Holy Communion according to our heavenly Father’s Will. Because this includes oneness in the faith we confess (doctrine), guests who desire to commune and confess Christ’s Truth with us are asked to speak with Pastor before the service.

## Small Catechism: Baptism

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Fourth

What does such baptizing with water indicate?

It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: *“We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”* (Rom. 6:4)



**SALEM**  
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# Service Notes and Propers of the Day

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Order of Service	LSB 184, Divine Service, Setting Three
Hymn of Invocation	545 Word of God, Come Down on Earth
Hymn of the Day	571 God Loved the World So That He Gave
Offering	744 Amazing Grace
Distribution	841 O Son of God, in Galilee
Hymns	420 Christ, the Life of All the Living 632 O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee
Hymn to Depart	890 O Blessed Light, O Trinity

## Introit Psalm 27:4–6; antiphon: Psalm 25:15



My eyes are ever | toward the Lord,\*  
for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.  
One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek | after:\*  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze  
upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his | temple.  
For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of | trouble;\*  
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high up- | on  
a rock.  
And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I  
will offer in his tent sacrifices with | shouts of joy;\*  
I will sing and make melody | to the Lord.  
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.  
My eyes are ever | toward the Lord,\*  
for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

## Collect of the Day

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...

## Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 42:14-21

<sup>14</sup>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.

<sup>15</sup>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.

<sup>16</sup>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.

<sup>17</sup>They are turned back and utterly put to shame,  
who trust in carved idols,  
who say to metal images,  
"You are our gods."

<sup>18</sup>Hear, you deaf,  
and look, you blind, that you may see!

<sup>19</sup>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?

<sup>20</sup>He sees many things, but does not observe them;  
his ears are open, but he does not hear.

<sup>21</sup>The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake,  
to magnify his law and make it glorious.

## Gradual

## Hebrews 12:2



[O come, let us fix our eyes on] | Jesus,\*  
the founder and perfecter | of our faith,  
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,\*  
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

## Epistle

## Ephesians 5:8–14

<sup>8</sup>For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

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

## Holy Gospel

## John 9

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup>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 <sup>7</sup>and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

<sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup>Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” <sup>10</sup>So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup>He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” <sup>12</sup>They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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."

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. <sup>21</sup>But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup>(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup>He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup>They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup>He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" <sup>28</sup>And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup>The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup>They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup>He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." <sup>38</sup>He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped

him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”

## **News and Notes**

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Mar. 15, 2026

- Salem School Chapel at 9:20 a.m. Join us to sing, pray, and hear Christ’s Word with our students.
- Wednesday morning Bible Study with Pastor Schultz at 10am. Join us in building upon the solid rock of Christ together.
- Join your Salem family at Wednesday Evening Lenten Meal – 5:30pm & Service - 6:30 p.m.
- LWML Meeting: There will be an LWML meeting on Monday, March 16th at 3:00 pm here at Salem.
- Lay Men's Confessions Study: Join us for a joint study of the Book of Concord led by Rev. Kettner of St. John's, Beardstown and Rev. Schultz. We meet monthly at the Mathis house in Arenzville for study and beer at 6:30pm. Our next meeting is Mar. 20<sup>th</sup>. Join brothers from area congregations as we learn what it means to stand firm in the faith and live Christ's truth in our vocations each day.
- PTL Meeting: is scheduled for Tuesday March 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm
- Elders Meeting: is scheduled for Tuesday March 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm
- Friendship Bible Study: is scheduled for Monday March 23rd at 6pm
- RENEWAL TIME: It is time to renew/subscribe to the Lutheran Witness. The June/July issue will be combined so there will only be 11 magazines mailed. The yearly price for 2026 is \$23.50 per year. If you would like to renew/subscribe, please let the office know. We will need payment and your mailing address by May 1st. Thank you!

- Leo's Pack the House Night: March 19th Pack the house at Leo's Dine in or carry out and help support Salem School! Make sure to mention Salem when ordering so we get credit. Your participation makes a difference, thank you for supporting our school community!
- Salem's Annual Spring Dinner & Auction:
  - All members of Salem congregation have an opportunity to serve the Lord by helping with Doorbell Dinners soon. Our congregation has been assigned March 30 - April 3 and April 27 -May 1. Please call Rita Tendick at 217-473-5017 if you are willing to help with this project. We need you!
  - EASTER BREAKFAST: Sunday, April 5th from 7:30 am to 9:00 am will be our Easter Breakfast. Serving Biscuits and Gravy, Egg Casserole, Sausage. Donation for sweets gratefully accepted, please bring your donation to the cafeteria on Saturday, April 4th from 4:30pm – 6:30 pm. Please mark your calendar and plan on attending. Thank you

# SPECIAL SERVICES FOR LENT/EASTER

- Mar. 18<sup>th</sup> Meal – 5:30 pm  
Lenten Evening Prayer – 6:30 pm / Pastor Heinze
- Mar. 25<sup>th</sup> Meal – 5:30 pm  
Lenten Evening Prayer – 6:30 pm / Pastor Lesemann
- Mar. 29<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday -- 9:00 am Divine Service
- Mar. 30<sup>th</sup> Prayer Service for St. Matthew's Passion – 12:00 pm
- Mar. 31<sup>st</sup> Prayer Service for St. Mark's Passion -- 12:00 pm
- Apr. 1<sup>st</sup> Prayer Service for St. Luke's Passion – 12:00 pm
- Apr. 2<sup>nd</sup> Closing Holy Week Chapel – 12:00 pm  
Maundy Thursday – 6:30 pm
- Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup> Good Friday -- 6:30 pm
- Apr. 4<sup>th</sup> Cook Out, Fun, Fellowship --- 4:30 (starts)  
Easter Vigil -- 6:30 pm
- Apr. 5<sup>th</sup> The Resurrection of our Lord 9:00 am Divine Service
- Apr. 8<sup>th</sup> Easter Wednesday Divine Service – 6:00 pm

# Illinois Pro-Life March

## March 19, 2026 • Springfield, IL

- Matins at Trinity Lutheran at 11 AM (220 S Second St.)
- Lunch available between Matins and the Rally/March (at the Statehouse Inn). A donation will be collected to help cover the cost of the lunch.
- The Rally will be held at the Lincoln Statue in front of the Illinois Capitol Building at 1 PM
- The March begins following the Rally, at 2 PM, from the Lincoln Statue heading north on Second St.
- Attendees are encouraged to consider lobbying their state legislator and senator following the march.
- Automobile parking is available in the west parking lot of the Statehouse Inn (101 E Adams)

## We Are Fearless With Jesus!

Vacation Bible School will be taking place on July 8-10 from 8-11 am each day and we need your help. If you are able to help in any of the following roles please talk to Joely Dolen or Mary Schultz

- Group leader (supervising children and taking them to each station)
- Game leader (materials and game instructions provided)
- Craft leader (materials and craft instructions provided)
- Signing children in and out
- Taking pictures

# SALEM LUTHERAN



## CHURCH & SCHOOL

### Week of March 8th

Mar 4 <sup>th</sup>	
Attendance	47
Operating	\$ 420.00
Mar 8 <sup>th</sup>	
Attendance	131
Communion	101
Operating	\$10,946.51
Leap	\$ 1,920.00
Restricted	\$23,808.59

## Prayer List

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Members and friends in need of prayer: David Vortman, Stephanie Bezler, Anne Chelet, Kimberly Hendricks, Roberta Mckee, Carole Holt, Dwayne Middendorf, Evengeline Martin, Phil Carl, Bob Morris, Ron Hudec, Steve Bahney, Arliss Wenzel, Benjamin Elmore, Donna Moody, Mary Acton, Ben Edwards, Rick and Kristen Halsey.

Please contact the church office to be added/removed from the Prayer List.

Salem is a member congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.