



# Fifth Sunday of Lent

**Sunday, March 22, 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

[saalemjax.net](http://saalemjax.net) | [saalemjaxschool.net](http://saalemjaxschool.net) | 217-243-3419

## **Lent 5a**

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Romans 8:1 – “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” This is the joy of the Gospel! There is no condemnation for us before the throne of God because in His love He has provided salvation for us in Christ. We have been set free. We are His children once again, and coheirs with Christ of all the blessings of heaven. If this does not make us thankful, nothing will!

## **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: Confession**

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What is Confession?

Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

What sins should we confess?

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord’s Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

Which are these?

Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?



## Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

<sup>1</sup>The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

<sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." <sup>10</sup>So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

<sup>11</sup>Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.' <sup>12</sup>Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup>And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup>And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."

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, despis- |  
ing the shame,\*  
and is seated at the right hand of the | throne of God.

## Epistle

Romans 8:1-11

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup>Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

## Holy Gospel

John 11:1-53

<sup>1</sup>Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup>It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup>So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup>But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

<sup>5</sup>Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. <sup>6</sup>So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. <sup>7</sup>Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup>The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup>Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. <sup>10</sup>But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." <sup>11</sup>After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." <sup>12</sup>The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." <sup>13</sup>Now Jesus had spoken of his death,

but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. <sup>14</sup>Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, <sup>15</sup>and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup>So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

<sup>17</sup>Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup>Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. <sup>20</sup>So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup>Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup>She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

<sup>28</sup>When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." <sup>29</sup>And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup>When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup>Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." <sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. <sup>34</sup>And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." <sup>35</sup>Jesus wept. <sup>36</sup>So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" <sup>37</sup>But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

<sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup>So they took

away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.” <sup>43</sup>When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” <sup>44</sup>The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

<sup>45</sup>Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, <sup>46</sup>but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. <sup>47</sup>So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the Council and said, “What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. <sup>48</sup>If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.” <sup>49</sup>But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all. <sup>50</sup>Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.” <sup>51</sup>He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, <sup>52</sup>and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. <sup>53</sup>So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

## **News and Notes**

Mar. 22, 2026

• **THANK YOU:** We would like to sincerely thank all friends, members of Salem for all the many prayers for our beloved husband and dad, David Monroe. We truly appreciate each one of them and are grateful for all of them. The family would also like to thank the Salem Ladies Guild for the delicious dinner and beautiful setting which was provided for us. We got to see many friends and family and have wonderful fellowship with that setting. You are all truly amazing and we are very grateful for that. Thanks again, The David Monroe family.

### **Services**

- Salem School Chapel at 9:20 a.m. Join us to sing, pray, and hear Christ's Word with our students.
- Join your Salem family at Wednesday Evening Lenten Meal – 5:30pm & Service - 6:30 p.m.

- **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
- **Doorbell Dinners:** 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!
- **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!
- **Salem Lutheran School PTL Easter Egg Hunt:** Sunday, March 29 Join us for a fun Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Salem Lutheran School PTL!

## **Bible Study**

- **Wednesday morning Bible Study** with Pastor Schultz at 10am. Join us in building upon the solid rock of Christ together.
- **Friendship Bible Study:** is scheduled for Monday March 23rd at 6pm
- **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 Apr. 17<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.

- LWML District Convention: The 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention of the Central Illinois District of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) will be held Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1 Bachrach Dr, Decatur. The theme is based on Isaiah 60:20 – 'for the Lord will be your Everlasting Light'. Speakers will be Martha Dahlke, LCML Mission Advancement and Linda Guterres, LWML Vice President of Communications. Important voting will concern convention timing, a mite mission goal & grants, officers and bylaws changes. Additional invitation information may be found at [www.lwmlcid.org](http://www.lwmlcid.org) or from your local LWML group.

## Meetings

- 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
- Committee Meeting: is scheduled for Tuesday April 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm
- LWML Meeting: There will be an LWML meeting on Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm here at Salem

## 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

## SPECIAL SERVICES FOR LENT/EASTER

- 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

SALEM LUTHERAN



CHURCH & SCHOOL

## Week of March 15th

Mar 11 <sup>th</sup>	
Attendance	48
Operating	\$ 470.00
Mar 15 <sup>th</sup>	
Attendance	106
Communion	83
Operating	\$13,670.15
Leap	\$ 6,318.03
Restricted	\$ 6,430.03

## 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, 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.



2026

# March - February



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
March 22 Divine Service - 9:00am Sunday School & Bible Class - 10:30am	March 23 Friendship Bible Study 6:00pm	March 24 PTL Meeting - 5:30pm Elders Meeting - 6:30pm	March 25 School Chapel - 9:20am Bible Study - 10:00am <b>Lent</b> Meal - 5:30pm Service - 6:30pm	March 26	March 27	March 28
March 29 <b>Palm Sunday</b> Divine Service - 9:00am Sunday School & Bible Class - 10:30am PTL Easter Egg Hunt	March 30 Prayer Service for St. Matthew's Passion - 12:00pm Friendship Bible Study 6:00pm	March 31 Prayer Service for St. Mark's Passion - 12:00pm	April 1 Prayer Service for St. Luke's Passion - 12:00pm	April 2 Closing Holy Week Chapel - 12:00pm Maundy Thursday - 6:30pm	April 3 Good Friday - 6:30pm	April 4 Cook out, Fun, Fellowship - 4:30pm Easter Vigil - 6:30pm
April 5 <b>Easter Sunday</b> Easter Breakfast 7:30am-9:00am Divine Service - 9:00am	April 6	April 7	April 8 School Chapel - 9:20am Bible Study - 10:00am	April 9	April 10	April 11
April 12 Divine Service - 9:00am Sunday School & Bible Class - 10:30am	April 13 Friendship Bible Study 6:00pm	April 14	April 15 School Chapel - 9:20am Bible Study - 10:00am	April 16 Leo's Pack the House Night	April 17 Lay Men's Confessions Study - 6:30pm	April 18
April 19 Divine Service - 9:00am Sunday School & Bible Class - 10:30am	April 20	April 21 PTL Meeting - 5:30pm	April 22 School Chapel - 9:20am Bible Study - 10:00am	April 23	April 24	April 25