

SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4873 Cleveland Road

Wooster, Ohio 44691



*Building Faith by Praying for God's Guidance, Hearing God's Word,
Sharing God's Grace, Serving God's Children*

MINISTERS: The People of Salem

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5th Sunday of Lent

March 22, 2026

In Our Prayers: Mark Ewing, Lea Ewing, Diane Cook, Kyle Richards, Benjamin Richards, Betty Snyder, Grady Cronick, Lois Phillips, Debra Sears, Alyssa Parish, Willy Zamora, Kathy Bond, Barbara Fedor, Mike Fiser Jr., Regina Carson, Sheril Buchwalter, Chet Molzen, Marvin Hartman, Tari Lowe, Patty Stuart, Bill Buchwalter, Mike Ringgenberg, Amanda Herbert, Monica Crawford, Sue Haumesser Miller, Family of Jean Shoup, Family of Jeanne Lifer, family of Sue Cook.

Welcome Visitors! Your presence is a blessing to us. Please pick up an information brochure, complete the visitor card and place it in the offering plate.

Parents with small children: We welcome you and your children to worship this morning. There are activity bags in the Narthex. The nursery is available (with speaker system) should you have need of it.

Holy Communion is offered the first Sunday of each month; we practice open table fellowship: All baptized Christians who share our belief that Jesus Christ is truly present with his body and blood along with the bread and wine, are invited to participate. Register using the card in the back of the pews.

P: Pastor A: Assisting minister C: **Congregation** L: Lector

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

Prelude

Bell

Call to Worship

Pastoral Greeting & Parish Time

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

A: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: **Amen.**

A: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

A: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

A: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

A: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

A: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

A: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

A: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

- A: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,
- C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**
- A: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.
- C: Amen.**

WE PRAISE GOD

Gathering Hymn *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service* Red Hymnal #712
Greeting

- A The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.**

Kyrie Red Hymnal Page 203
Canticle of Praise *Glory to God* Red Hymnal Page 204

Prayer of the Day

- A: Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

¹ The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” ⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on 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.”

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ ¹² Therefore prophecy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will

act, says the LORD.”

L: The Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Refrain

God will give the an - gels
charge o - ver you, to guard you in all your ways.

Psalm 91:11

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Psalmody

Tone

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Psalm 130

- A: ¹ Out | of the depths
I cry to | you, O LORD;
- C: ² O LORD, | hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive to the voice of
my | supplication.
- A: ³ If you were to keep watch | over sins,
O LORD, | who could stand?
- C: ⁴ Yet with you | is forgiveness,
in order that you | may be feared. R

A: ⁵ I wait for you, O LORD; ¹ my soul waits;
in your word ¹ is my hope.

C: ⁶ **My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep
watch ¹ for the morning,
more than those who keep watch ¹ for the morning.**

A: ⁷ O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there
is ¹ steadfast love;
with the LORD there is plen- ¹ teous redemption.

C: ⁸ **For the LORD shall ¹ redeem Israel
from ¹ all their sins. R**

Second Reading

Romans 8:6-11

⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Red Hymnal Page 205

Please stand.

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

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

Gospel

John 11:1-45

¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at

home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” ²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of

God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Tim Barrage

Please stand.

Hymn of the Day *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery* **Red Hymnal #334**
Apostles' Creed

P: Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith using the Apostles' Creed.

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the

dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church

A: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

C: #616 Jesus, Remember Me
(Red Hymnal. Response is sung, led by organ)

A: Prayers continue... As we lift up our prayers....

C: #616 Jesus, Remember Me
(Red Hymnal. Response is sung, led by organ)

A: Prayers continue... As we lift up our prayers....

C: #616 Jesus, Remember Me
(Red Hymnal. Response is sung, led by organ)

A: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

C: Amen.

Peace

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

C: And also with you.

WE OFFER GOD OUR GIFTS

Offering of Gifts

Offertory

Amanda Herbert & Tim Mann

Please stand.

Offering prayer

P: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: **Amen**

Thanksgiving for the Word**Canticle of Thanksgiving**

Red Hymnal page 219

P: Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

C: **we give you thanks and praise.**

P: By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

C: **we give you thanks and praise.**

P: Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

C: **we give you thanks and praise.**

P: Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C: **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

P: Remember us in your kingdom, O Lord, 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**

WE ARE BLESSED AND SENT FORTH TO SERVE GOD'S CHILDREN

Please stand.

Blessing

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✚ bless you now and always.

C: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn *You Are the Way* **Red Hymnal #758**

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Tim Mann

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THIS WEEK AT SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, March 22

5th Sunday of Lent

9:00 a.m. Bible Study (Facebook Live Stream)

10:00 a.m. Worship (Facebook Live Stream)

Congregational Meeting set for TODAY!

Pot luck Fellowship follows meeting

12:00 p.m. Council Meeting

2:00 p.m. Avenue Worship

5:00 p.m. YouTube Livestream Replay

Monday, March 23

6:00 p.m. NFL Monday Night! Free Community Meal

7:00 p.m. and Chosen Bible Study

NEXT WEEK AT SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday March 29

Palm Sunday

9:00 a.m. Bible Study (Facebook Live Stream)

10:00 a.m. Worship (Facebook Live Stream)

11:00 a.m. Fellowship

5:00 p.m. YouTube Livestream Replay

Monday, March 30

6:00 p.m. NFL Monday Night! Free Community Meal

7:00 p.m. and Chosen Bible Study



Pastoral Concerns – Tim Barrage is available to the members of Salem in times of Pastoral concerns or emergencies. He can be reached at 330-465-5763.

Nursing Home Worship:

April 12 2:30 p.m. Brookdale Senior Living, Wooster. Services are held on the second Sunday of the month.

TODAY, 2:00 p.m. Avenue at Wooster Care and Rehabilitation Center. Services are held on the fourth Sunday of the month.

If you would be willing to help with these services, please contact Barbara Buchwalter @ 330-317-7906.

Women of Faith has a Facebook group called “Women of Salem.” If anyone is interested in meeting for brunch at Buehler’s Towne Market at 10:00 am on the first Wednesday of the month, please let us know. <http://www.facebook.com/WomenOfSalem>

ELCA World Hunger - All loose change in the offering plate will go toward this special social ministry project.

Worship Lay Assistants Needed: Consider being a part of this ministry. If you have never performed any of these duties before, we will be happy to show you the ropes. If you have a beautiful voice or are musically inclined, please let us know.

Congregational Meeting Scheduled for TODAY:

This meeting has been called by Salem Church Council to be held following worship on this date to discuss and vote on the contract, and funding that council has selected for the bell-tower top repair. This meeting will be brief as this is the only topic on the agenda. A Pot Luck will follow the meeting.

NFL Monday Night Free Community Meal: 6:00 p.m. Come for a hot meal, stay for a bible study. This meal is open to any all who hunger.

The Chosen – Monday nights*: Monday evenings 7:00 p.m.. We continue to show a new episode of “The Chosen” series. Join us as we watch the series together and discuss the episodes in detail.

*Invite friends or neighbors to one of our special events with the provided post card invites. Fill out their name, add a personal note, and drop in the mail. We can mail it if you drop them in the offering plate.

