

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

330-345-6727

slcmain@gmail.com

4th Sunday of Lent

March 30, 2025

In Our Prayers: Lois Phillips, Debra Sears, Sherri Hammil, Charlie Hammil, Trisha Hammil, Little Charlie Hammil, Paxton Galvin, Alyssa Snyder, Willy Zamora, Kathy Bond, Barbara Fedor, Kenny Wise, Sherri Snyder, Mike Fiser Jr., Regina Carson, Sheril Buchwalter, Shirley Delefave, Chet Molzen, Marvin Hartman, Tari Lowe, Patty Stuart, Bill Buchwalter, Mike Ringgenberg, Amanda Herbert, Monica Crawford, Sue Haumesser Miller, Jean Shoup, Family of Reed Hostetler, Family of Colter Kerfoot, Family of Terry Parker, Family of Laura Keys, Family of George Wise, Family of Betty Wise, Family of Randy Ross, Family of Don Fry.

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

The psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away . . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!

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 return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

A: Compassionate One,

C: **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

A: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

C: **Amen.**

WE PRAISE GOD

Gathering Hymn *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* Red Hymnal #807

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: God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading

Joshua 5:9-12

⁹ The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

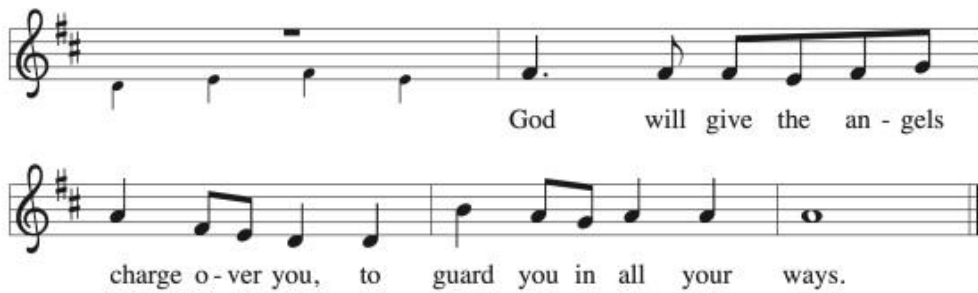
¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

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
Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

Psalmody

Tone



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

Psalm 32

- A: ¹ Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,
and whose sin is | put away!
- C: ² **Happy are they to whom the LORD im- | putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there | is no guile! R**
- A: ³ While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,
because of my groaning | all day long.
- C: ⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.**
- A: ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal
my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."
Then you forgave me the guilt | of my sin.

- C: ⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you
in ^l time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they ^l shall not reach
them. R**
- A: ⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve ^l me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts ^l of deliverance.
- C: ⁸ **“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that ^l you
should go;
I will guide you ^l with my eye.**
- A: ⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have
no ^l understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they
will ^l not stay near you.”
- C: ¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations ^l of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust ^l in the LORD.**
- A: ¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice ^l in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are ^l true of heart. **R**

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that

is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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 Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

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

Gospel

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough

and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

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

Sermon

Tim Barrage

Please stand.

Hymn of the Day *Our Father, We Have Wandered* **Red Hymnal #606**
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: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church,
the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

C: #616 Jesus, Remember Me

(Red Hymnal. Response is sung, led by organ)

A: Prayers continue, In your mercy,...

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

A: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

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 & Sandy Smith

Please stand.

Offering Song

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Red Hymnal #188

Offering prayer

P: Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen

Thanksgiving for the Word

Canticle of Thanksgiving

Red Hymnal page 219

P: O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; 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: God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, † bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn *My Life Flows On in Endless Song* **Red Hymnal #763**

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Sandy Smith

Liturgical elements and prayers are drawn from:

Sundays and Seasons.com. ©2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #20591. New Revised Standard Version Bible, © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission.

All right reserved. Hymns licensed under One License #A-713299 and CCLI License #11271355. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission

THIS WEEK AT SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, March 30

4th Sunday of Lent

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

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

11:00 a.m. Fellowship

12:00 p.m. Progressive Meal

5:00 p.m. YouTube Livestream Replay

Monday, March 31

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

7:00 p.m. and Chosen Bible Study

Wednesday, April 02

7:00 p.m. Lenten Zoom Bible Study

NEXT WEEK AT SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday April 06

5th Sunday of Lent

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, April 07

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

7:00 p.m. and Chosen Bible Study

Wednesday, April 09

7:00 p.m. Lenten Zoom Bible Study

Here is your chance to help Raise the Roof:

A roof is an expensive but necessary expense for our community of faith. While we are not a poor church by any metric, we do not want to spend down our investments to complete maintenance tasks. This means that we must be willing to think outside of the box on how we can raise the monies necessary for this project. Please prayerfully consider a gift to assist us with this most needed and faith focused investment for our future.

DO YOU HAVE A MANDATORY WITHDRAWAL FROM YOUR IRA OR RETIREMENT ACCOUNT SCHEDULED IN THE COMING WEEKS? IF SO, CONSIDER MAKING A PORTION OF THAT WITHDRAWAL A CONTRIBUTION TO OUR RAISE THE ROOF FUNDRAISING DRIVE. BY DOING SO, YOU WON'T TAKE THE HIT OF ADDITIONAL INCOME ON YOUR TAXES, AS THE GIFT WOULD BE 100% TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

WE WILL BE PASSING OUR PLEDGE CARDS IN THE COMING WEEKS FOR OUR MEMBERSHIP TO PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER WHAT THEY WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ROOF CAMPAIGN. OUR GOAL IS TO RAISE \$50,000. THIS WOULD COVER THE ROOF AND ANY EXCESS WOULD BE PASSED ALONG TO OUR FOOD PANTRY PROGRAM.

I _____ AM PLEDGING A TOTAL OF \$ _____ TOWARDS THE RAISE THE ROOF FUNDRAISING DRIVE TO BE PAID IN INSTALLMENTS OVER THE NEXT _____ MONTHS.

I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A ONE-TIME GIFT OF \$ _____ TOWARD THE RAISE THE ROOF FUNDRAISING DRIVE. (PLEASE ATTACH A CHECK MADE OUT TO SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH (RTR CAMPAIGN) (PLACE IN OFFERING PLATE)

I WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE # _____ TICKETS FOR THE ELECTRIC BIKE (#1) RAFFLE FOR \$50/TICKET. (PLEASE ATTACH A CHECK MADE OUT TO SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH (RTR CAMPAIGN-TICKETS-1) (PLACE IN OFFERING PLATE) TICKET SALES END ON 04/15/25

I WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE # _____ TICKETS FOR THE ELECTRIC BIKE (#2) RAFFLE FOR \$25/TICKET. (PLEASE ATTACH A CHECK MADE OUT TO SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH (RTR CAMPAIGN-TICKETS-2) (PLACE IN OFFERING PLATE) TICKET SALES END ON 04/15/25



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 13 2:00 p.m. Brookdale Senior Living, Wooster. Services are held on the second Sunday of the month.

April 27 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.

Continuing Live Stream Services: Our goal is to continue the livestream services. Please consider supporting this livestream ministry with a designated gift by marking “livestream” on your offering envelope. For us to be able to fully utilize this technology we continue to invest in additional tools and higher end cameras. This ministry is grateful for the support, consideration and generosity.

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.

