



Salem Lutheran Church  
401 S. Lake St. Lake Mills IA 50450

Welcome to the House of the Lord

Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 26, 2022 – 5:30pm

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**OUR MISSION:** We are God forgiven and mission driven.

**OUR VISION:** To be that Lake Mills place where belonging, healing, growing, serving and believing are open to all, regardless of background, experience or aptitude. Central to this is that we are a -forgiving, mission-driven community, which means we all want to have an impact, shaped by the love of Christ to serve all others.

<p><b>Saturday--5:30pm Worship Service</b>  <b>Preaching: Sondra Nelson</b>  <b>Organist:</b> Ruth Sheldon  <b>Reader:</b> Shannon Bruhns  <b>Liturgical Choir:</b> Shannon Bruhns  <b>Sound:</b> Shannon Bruhns  <b>Acolytes:</b> Shannon Bruhns  <b>Ushers:</b> Shannon Bruhns  <b>Communion Servers:</b>  <b>Altar Guild for March:</b> Linda Helgeson,  Gloria Kvale, Sharon Johnson</p>	<p><b>Sunday--9:00am Worship Service</b>  <b>Preaching: Sondra Nelson</b>  <b>Organist:</b> Ruth Sheldon  <b>Readers:</b> Shannon Bruhns  <b>Liturgical Choir:</b> Al Skellenger, Nancy Guttormson,  Bill &amp; Jean Rondeau, Larry Rice, Sue Myli  <b>Sound:</b> Al Skellenger  <b>Live Stream:</b> Brad Evenson  <b>Acolytes:</b> Lyle Thomson  <b>Ushers:</b> Lyle and Orloue Thomson  <b>Communion Servers:</b>  <b>Altar Guild for March:</b>  Linda Helgeson, Gloria Kvale, Sharon Johnson</p>
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The radio broadcast is given by the Members of Salem.

### **Salem Contact Information:**

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## INTRODUCTION

*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!*

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## GATHERING

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### PRELUDE

### BELLS

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Holy God,  
 our living Water, our faithful Companion, our true Guide,  
 by your Word you created a world with rivers and seas, wells and springs,  
 and in mercy you provided water for your people in the wilderness.  
 For your Word with the water of baptism, we thank you, O God.  
**We thank you, O God.**

We praise you for Christ, who joined us in our desert,  
 calling us to righteousness, granting forgiveness,  
 and walking with us into newness of life.  
 For Jesus, your gracious Word, we glorify you, O God.  
**We glorify you, O God.**

Through these days of Lent we plead for your Spirit,  
 that strengthened by your Word,  
 we may care for others and for the world you made,  
 and work for justice and peace for all.  
 For your Word in our hearts and minds, we praise you, O God.  
**We praise you, O God.**

Receive our thanksgiving, and grant us your blessing,  
 Holy God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

*Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*

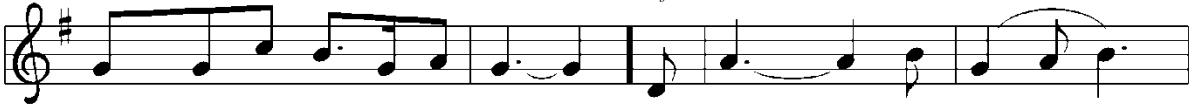
ELW #608



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

*Refrain*

watch - ing for you and for me.  
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!"  
 par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.

**Amen.**

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**WORD**


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**FIRST READING**

Joshua 5:9-12

<sup>9</sup>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.

<sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup>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.

Word of God. Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SCRIPTURE SONG***Father, We Thank You*

ELW #478



1 Fa - ther, we thank you that you plant - ed your ho - ly name with -  
2 Watch o'er your church, O Lord, in mer - cy, save it from e - vil,



in our hearts. Knowl - edge and faith and life im - mor - tal Je - sus your  
guard it still; per - fect it in your love, u - nite it, cleansed and con -



Son to us im - parts. Lord, you have made all for your plea - sure,  
formed un - to your will. As grain, once scat - tered on the hill - sides,



and giv'n us food for all our days, giv - ing in Christ the  
was in this bro - ken bread made one, so from all lands your



bread e - ter - nal; yours is the pow'r, yours be the praise.  
church be gath - ered in - to your king - dom by your Son.

**SECOND READING**

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

<sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

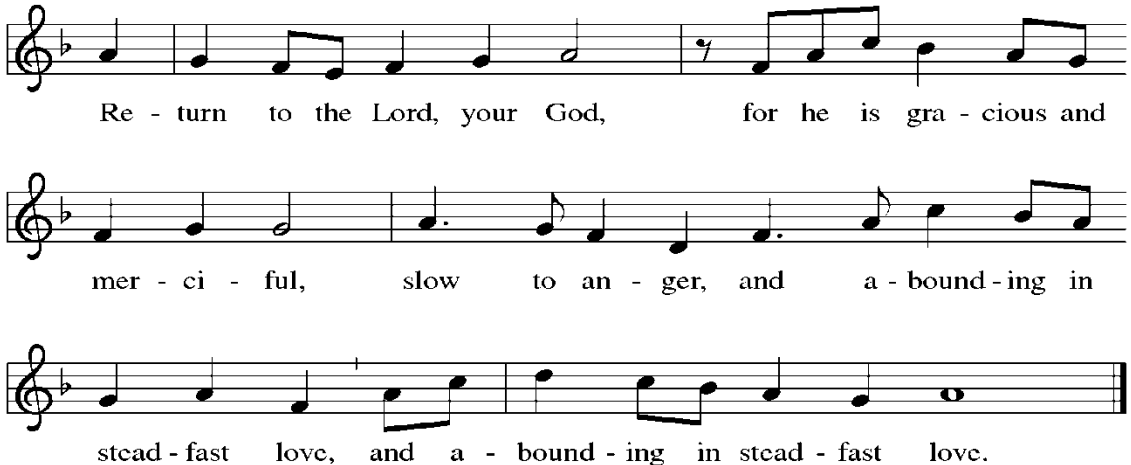
Word of God. Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION***Return to the Lord, Your God*

ELW p.142

*We stand for the hearing of the gospel.*



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
 mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
 stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

**GOSPEL**

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The Holy Gospel according to Luke

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>11b</sup>“There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>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! <sup>18</sup>I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>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.’ <sup>22</sup>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. <sup>23</sup>And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup>for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup>“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup>He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup>Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ <sup>31</sup>Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with

me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> 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.' ”

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

*Our Father, We Have Wandered*

ELW #606

*We stand for the hymn of the day.*



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;  
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,  
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.  
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.  
com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,  
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,  
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.  
in glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.  
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.



## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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

*We will be seated for the prayers*

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

Jesus formed the disciples in the ways of extravagant mercy and profound welcome. Lead your church to be a community marked by forgiveness, hospitality, and celebration. Send us to transform a world plagued by fear and condemnation. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You make the land to produce a harvest that sustains your entire creation. Equip farmers and farm workers who till the soil. Nourish the earth with ample rainfall and abundant sunshine. Heal grounds tainted by pollution or misuse. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Countries are divided and leaders often harbor grudges. Reconcile nations that experience conflict. Act quickly to bring an end to war. Anoint peacemakers trained in the art of diplomacy and foster a spirit of collaboration among political rivals. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Your people cry for help in times of distress. Resolve disagreements among family members. Save those experiencing financial hardship. Hear our prayers for those who are sick or grieving. Console us with the promise that everything can become new. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Your love comes to us when a table is set and a feast is prepared. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation. Bring an end to hunger in our community and around the world. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

The one who was dead is alive again. We give thanks for those who have died, confident that steadfast love surrounds them. Shelter them in your love until we are gathered at your heavenly banquet. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Pastor concludes the prayers*

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

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## **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

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### **OFFERING**

*The offering is being collected at the beginning of the service as you walk in. The usher will bring the offering forward for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need at the time of the offering song and prayer.*

### **MUSICAL OFFERING**



**OFFERING PRAYER**

Extravagant God,  
you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast  
where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come  
among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray.  
**Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

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**SENDING**

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**BLESSING**

You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness  
and strengthened for the journey.

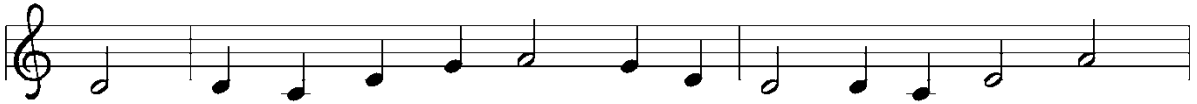
Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty, ✝ bless you this day and always.  
**Amen.**

*Blessed  
Always*

## SENDING HYMN

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

ELW #666



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when  
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to  
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this  
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down  
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my  
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?  
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.  
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.  
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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