



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

Welcome to the House of the Lord  
Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 6, 2016 - 9:00 a.m.

## GATHERING

Prelude

Variation on *Veni Creator Spiritus*  
*Holy, Holy, Holy*

4th Century Plainsong  
arr. Hal Hopson

Bells

### \*Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who brings us safely through the sea,  
who gives us water from the rock, who leads us into the land of milk and honey.  
**Amen.**

Let us come home to God, confessing our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful Father, **we have sinned against heaven and before you.**

**We do not fully live as your sons and daughters. We use your gifts to our own ends.  
Forgive us and restore us, that we may resist all that draws us away from you,  
and be at peace with one another. Amen.**

We are reconciled to God through Christ; for his sake, God does not count our trespasses  
against us. Once dead in sin, we are now alive to God. Once lost, we now are found.

God clothes you in the finest robe of all, the righteousness of ☩ Jesus Christ,  
forgiving you all your sins and making of you a new creation. **Amen.**

\*Gathering Song

*What Wondrous Love is This*

ELW 666

\*Greeting

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

\*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

**C:** 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.**



### 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!

## WORD

### Psalm: Psalm 32 (Read Responsively)

- <sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!  
<sup>2</sup>**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**  
<sup>3</sup>While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.  
<sup>4</sup>**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**  
<sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess  
my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.  
<sup>6</sup>**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the  
great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**  
<sup>7</sup>You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.  
<sup>8</sup>**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;  
I will guide you with my eye.**  
<sup>9</sup>Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with  
bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."  
<sup>10</sup>**Great are the tribulations of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**  
<sup>11</sup>Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

\*Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Page 80 in Bible

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

### Sermon

Hymn of the Day *Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*

ELW 608

### \*Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will

have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### Special Music

*Lord, On the Night of Betrayal*

Creature Praise Choir

### Announcements

#### \*Prayers of Intercession

Hearing the call to return to the Lord, let us join the whole people of God in prayer for all who cry out in pain and in hope.

*A brief silence.*

*Please respond at the end of each petition: Hear us, O God,*

**Your mercy is great.**

To you, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

### Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

### Offering

#### MEAL

#### \*Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray.

**God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### \*Words of Institution

#### \*Lord's Prayer

L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, 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.**

#### Invitation to Communion

All who thirst, all who hunger, come and be filled with the goodness of God.

## Communion

*When Holy Communion is served, all Christians who recognize the real presence of Christ in the Sacrament and the offer of forgiveness of sins are invited to the Lord's Table. Children are invited forward to receive a blessing. Please follow the ushers' instructions in coming for communion. Communion will be at the rail.*

## Prayer After Communion

P: Let us pray. O God, we thank you for gathering and feeding us as a mother hen embraces her young. Release us now to go on our way in these forty days, ready to see our work as prayer, ready to fast from complacency, and ready to share with those in need; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

## Blessing

The blessing of God Almighty,  
the wisdom and power of + Christ Jesus,  
and the light of the Holy Spirit  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Sending Song**      *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

**ELW 779**

## \*Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Remember the poor. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**Preaching:** Pastor Joel Dahlen

**Presiding:** Pastor Melinda McCluskey

**Organist:** Ruth Sheldon

**Reader:** Cindy Haugsdal

**Ushers:** Jason & Abby Holtan Family

**Acolytes:** Madison Holtan, Andrew Fjelstad, Mason Fritz

**Communion Servers:** Don & Nancy Knudtson, Linda Helgeson, Julie Helgeson

**Sound:** Al Skellenger

**Video Coordinator:** Carol Abbey

**Videographer:** Hope Levine

**Altar Guild for March:** All Guild Members

**The radio broadcast this morning is in loving memory of Bob Thompson's birthday from Betty and Family.**

**Flowers have been placed in loving memory of Diane Brackey from her family. Services were held Saturday at Salem.**

**The 8:30 a.m. worship service is broadcast weekly on KIOW-FM 107.3.**

**Available dates are: March 20, 27, May 8, June 5, July 10, 17, Aug. 7, 14, Sept. 4, Oct. 16, 23, Nov. 6, 20, Dec. 4, 11.**

## Special Congregational Meeting Sunday, March 6, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.

Purpose of the meeting is to vote on the candidate for the new lead senior pastor at Salem.

### Agenda

**Call to order**

**Confirmation of a Quorum**

**Vote to extend a call to Pastor Joel Guttormson to be lead senior pastor at Salem Lutheran Church**

**Vote on the compensation package for the new lead pastor position**

**Adjournment**

**We have a sponsorship program for the live internet broadcast of the 9:00 a.m. worship service.** Sponsorship is available for \$40 per Sunday. **Call the office to reserve a date in 2016.**

**Salem has a wheel chair available for use. It is kept in the narthex closet.**

**Sending of Communion** will be held the third Sunday of each month. Please call the office (641.592.1771) if you would like to receive communion at home on Sunday, March 20.

## Be sure to Direct 2015 Choice Dollars

Eligible Thrivent Financial members have until March 31, 2016, to direct any remaining 2015 Choice Dollars. After that date, Choice Dollars expire.

Act soon, before Choice Dollars expire! Visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) today. Or, contact Beth Nyguard (641.592.0064)



**Each week during Lent we are collecting Personal Care Kit items for the Baskets of Promise project.** Basket will be in the narthex. Any questions, contact Sue Langerud. No date yet to assemble kits.

**March 6:** Combs

**March 13:** Nail Clippers (Metal, attached file optional)

**March 20:** Bars of Soap

## 24 Hour Prayer Vigil

The night before Jesus was crucified he went to the upper room and had the last supper with his disciples. Afterwards he went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. He asked his disciples to watch and pray for an hour. Jesus went further into the garden and prayed "Father, if it be possible—take this cup from me. But not my will but Thine be done." After an hour, he went back to his disciples and found them asleep. He woke them and again asked them to watch and pray for an hour. He went back to pray to his heavenly Father. When he returned an hour later to his disciples they were still asleep.

To commemorate Jesus hour of trial in the Garden of gethsemane, Salem Church will be holding a 24-hour prayer vigil in the chapel. It will take place from after the Maundy Thursday, March 24, 2016 until the Good Friday service begins on March 25. Please sign up for 1-hour time slots to "Watch and Pray with Jesus." Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.



**Wednesdays at Salem during Lent - 6:00 p.m.**

**Soup & Sandwich Meal served by Confirmation Families in the fellowship hall.**

**7:15 p.m. Lent Services each Wednesday in the sanctuary.**

**Welcome to Week Four** (March 9) in the Living Lent series, based on the word **PRAISE**. We are reminded today that even in the midst of sorrow, we are called to celebrate the love of God and the joy that can be found only in Christ crucified, who reigns in glory now. May this service's readings from Scripture, children's sermon, sermon and hymns all serve to help you to remember that we are people of the resurrection living in Lent.

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** Senior Choir rehearsals are scheduled for March 20. See back page calendar. The choir will sing for Easter Service, Sunday, March 27th at 9:00a.m.

**Please remember in prayer this week**

**The family and friends of Diane Brackey and Mylan Johnson**

**Ila Grothe, Gavin Thompson, Darlene Madson, Glennes Nelson**

**Prayer Families:** Thayne Sorenson, Chelsea Souder, Brenda Sprecher, Dana Sprecher, Dillan Sprecher, Elizabeth Sprecher Family, Jason Sprecher, Kevin/Amy Sprecher Family, Kristal Sprecher, Wayne/Arlene Sprecher



Salem offers a safe and easy way to give online. Scan this QR code to go to the website. There you can click the **Donate Now** button to make your gift. You decided the amount. You will need either a credit or debit card to complete the transaction. Thank you for your support of ministry at Salem!

## THIS WEEK AT SALEM

### SUNDAY, MARCH 6

9:00 a.m. Communion Worship - Sanctuary

10:00 a.m. Sunday School; Congregational Meeting – Sanctuary

After Congregational Meeting – Senior Choir Practice – Choir Room

10:15 a.m. Coffee Fellowship – Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m. First Communion Class – Room #6

10:40 a.m. Youth Choir - Chapel

### MONDAY, MARCH 7

2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Food Shelf Open

4:00 p.m. Hannah Circle – Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. Worship & Music Board

### TUESDAY, MARCH 8

9:30 a.m. Miriam Circle – Norma Thompson

10:00 a.m. LMAMA – Food Shelf

1:00 – 6:00 p.m. Life Serve Bloodmobile – Fellowship Hall

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

3:30 – 5:00 p.m. Piano Lessons - Lounge

5:00 p.m. Life & Growth Board

6:00 p.m. Soup & Sandwich Meal – Fellowship Hall

7:00 p.m. St. Pat's Youth Group - Room #9

7:15 p.m. Lent Service - Sanctuary

### THURSDAY, MARCH 10

9:00 a.m. Conference Pastors Gathering - Chapel

9:30 a.m. Fine Arts Guild – Fellowship Hall

### FRIDAY, MARCH 12

12:00 p.m. Property Board Meeting

### SUNDAY, MARCH 13

9:00 a.m. Worship Service - Sanctuary

10:00 a.m. Sunday School; Coffee Fellowship – Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m. First Communion Class – Room #6

**Next Week's Lessons:** Isaiah 43:16-21, Psalm 126, Philippians 3:4b-14, John 12:1-8

**There are 2 red & 2 blue lawn chairs** left here following the outdoor services. If you think they may be yours, call the office. If they are not claimed, they will be on the upcoming silent auction.

**Those worshipping February 24/28: 236**

**Last week's giving to the Glory of God: \$4678.70**