

# 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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4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

March 15, 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

*Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.*

**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      *O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate*      Red Hymnal #722

### 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: Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### First Reading

1 Samuel 16:1-13

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided

for myself a king among his sons.”<sup>2</sup> Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’”<sup>3</sup> Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.”<sup>4</sup> Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?”<sup>5</sup> He said, “Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup> When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the LORD.”<sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”<sup>8</sup> Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”<sup>9</sup> Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”<sup>10</sup> Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.”<sup>11</sup> Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.”<sup>12</sup> He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.”<sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

**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 23

- A: <sup>1</sup> The LORD <sup>|</sup> is my shepherd;  
I shall not <sup>|</sup> be in want.
- C: <sup>2</sup> **The LORD makes me lie down <sup>|</sup> in green pastures  
and leads me be- <sup>|</sup> side still waters.**
- A: <sup>3</sup> You restore my <sup>|</sup> soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways <sup>|</sup> for your name's  
sake.
- C: <sup>4</sup> **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall <sup>|</sup> fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff,  
they <sup>|</sup> comfort me. R**
- A: <sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence <sup>|</sup> of my  
enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is <sup>|</sup> running  
over.

**C:   <sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days <sup>1</sup> of my life,  
          and I will dwell in the house of the <sup>1</sup> LORD forever. R**

**Second Reading**

**Ephesians 5:8-14**

<sup>8</sup> Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, <sup>9</sup> for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup> Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, <sup>13</sup> but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup> for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on 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 ninth chapter.**

**C:   Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel**

**John 9:1-41**

<sup>1</sup> As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup> We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup> When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, <sup>7</sup> saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came

back able to see. <sup>8</sup> The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup> Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” <sup>10</sup> But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup> He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” <sup>12</sup> They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup> Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” <sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. <sup>17</sup> So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

<sup>18</sup> The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup> and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” <sup>20</sup> His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, <sup>21</sup> but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” <sup>22</sup> His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

<sup>24</sup> So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a

sinner.”<sup>25</sup> He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”<sup>26</sup> They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”<sup>27</sup> He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?”<sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.”<sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”<sup>30</sup> The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes.”<sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.<sup>32</sup> Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.<sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”<sup>34</sup> They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”<sup>36</sup> He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”<sup>38</sup> He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.”<sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”<sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

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

**Sermon**

Tim Barrage

*Please stand.*

**Hymn of the Day**

*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

**Red Hymnal #779**

## 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 & Karolyn Rice**

*Please stand.*

**Offering Song**

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

**Red Hymnal #188**

**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**            *Be Thou My Vision*            **Red Hymnal #793**

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

**Karolyn Rice**

*Liturgical elements and prayers are drawn from:*

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***THIS WEEK AT SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH***

**Sunday, March 15**

**4<sup>th</sup> 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, March 16**

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

7:00 p.m. and Chosen Bible Study

**Wednesday, March 18**

7:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study via ZOOM

**Congregational Meeting set for March 22!**

***NEXT WEEK AT SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH***

**Sunday March 22**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

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

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

**Congregational Meeting following Worship**

Pot-luck meal to follow 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

**Wednesday, March 25**

7:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study via ZOOM



**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.

**March 22, 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 March 22:**

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.

