



Salem Lutheran Church

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Assistant Minister: P. Aaron H.

Lay Reader: Johni W.

Communion: Judy H., Carol O., Debbie L.

March 15, 2026

9:30 am

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GENE SELL SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION

Tejon Williams-Hofbauer

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

A Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

L Gracious God,

A have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

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

A have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

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

A have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

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

A have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

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

A have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

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

A have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

L For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

A have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

L 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.

A Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

"Restore in Us, O God"

ELW 328

GREETING

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

A And also with you.

KYRIE

pg. 203

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L The Lord be with you.

A And also with you.

L Let us pray,

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. Amen.

FIRST READING: 1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

¹The 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.” ²Samuel 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.’

³Invite 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.” ⁴Samuel 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?” ⁵He 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. ⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the Lord.” ⁷But 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.” ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹Samuel 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.” ¹²He 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.” ¹³Then 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.

A Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 5:8-14

⁸ Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ 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.

A Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

pg. 205 (Lent)

L The Holy Gospel according to John, the ninth chapter.

A Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: JOHN 9:1-3, 35-41 (*1-41 will be read aloud*)

pew Bible, pgs. 871-872

¹ As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him...” ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹ 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.” ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

L The Gospel of the Lord.

A Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

“In Plain Sight”

Pastor Aaron Holmgren

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery”

ELW 334, vs. 1-4, Lent 4

APOSTLES’ CREED

L God has made us God’s people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

A 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 OF INTERCESSION

L Hear us, O God.

A Your mercy is great.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L The peace of the Lord be with you always.

A And also with you.

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OFFERING

“Pie Jesu”

P. Aaron Holmgren & Keith Irwin

(Offering baskets are located in back of the sanctuary)

DOXOLOGY

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

ELW 184

OFFERING PRAYER

L Generous God,

A you have given us life, this community, and these gifts of the earth that become the means of your grace. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father...

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

L Come to the table. Feast on God’s abundant life for you.

A Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

pg. 208

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L We thank you, O God,

A that you have fed us at your banqueting table with bread and wine beyond compare, the very life of Christ for us. Send your Spirit with us now, that we may set the captive free, use your gifts to build one another up, and in everything reflect your glory revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

“Be Thou My Vision”

ELW 793

DISMISSAL

L Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

A Thanks be to God.

Scan for Church
Announcements



Welcome Guests & Visitors!

We hope you found the worship service meaningful. If you or someone you know would like information about Salem; program offerings, perhaps looking for a church home or some other need: Please contact the church office (651-457-6661) or Diane Hueller (651-451-0307).