



Salem Lutheran Church

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Assistant Minister: Keith I.
Lay Reader: Mary Lou V.-B.

March 22, 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

"Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand"

ACS 1024

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 Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: EZEKIEL 37:1-14

¹The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord." ⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. ¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹²Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

L The Word of the Lord.

A Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 8:6-11

⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in 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 eleventh chapter.

A Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: JOHN 11:1-6, 38-45 (*1-45 will be read aloud*)

pew Bible, pgs. 873-874

¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was... ³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." ⁴⁵ Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

L The Gospel of the Lord.

A Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

"A Troubled Christ"

Pastor Aaron Holmgren

HYMN OF THE DAY

"In Deepest Night"

ELW 699

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.

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SHARING OF THE PEACE

L The peace of the Lord be with you always.

A And also with you.

OFFERING

"Hashivenu"

Jubilee Ringers

(Offering baskets are located in back of the sanctuary)

DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

ELW 885

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...

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

ELW 773

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).