

March 18-19, 2023
Lent 4

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
359 North Leonard Street, West Salem, Wisconsin
608-786-0030 office@oursaviorswestsalem.org
www.oursaviorswestsalem.org

Pastor Jonathan M. Schmidt
Pastor Jean R. Schmidt



WELCOME TO WORSHIP! God gathers us through Word and Sacrament to celebrate God's presence and to receive God's gift of grace. God has made us his people through our baptism and keeps us close to him through the preaching of the word and God's presence in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. We give thanks today for the gift of faith God has planted in us, and we depart to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

We extend a special **welcome** to those who are our guests. May God bless this time of worship for you as we are blessed by your presence. If you have no church home we invite you to join with us and consider Our Savior's as your church home. If you are not baptized and would like to talk about baptism as part of your faith journey, please speak with one of the pastors.

FELLOWSHIP PADS: We ask everyone to sign and pass the fellowship pad in the pew and return it to the rack when done.

OFFERING: No offering is collected during our worship this day; however, we do welcome your support of our ministries and thank you for your gifts. Together we make a difference in the lives of others.

Offering plates are available as you leave the sanctuary. For online giving go to the church website: oursaviorswestsaalem.org/giving. Or text your gift amount to 608-471-7267 and follow the instructions on the response you receive. Thank you for your generosity and support of our work together.



Order of Worship

*Please stand as you are able

PRELUDE

WELCOME

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess to you our faults and failings.

Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life.

Amen.

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy, forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.

Amen.

***HYMN** "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" #843



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

***GREETING** page 98 (in front of the hymnal)

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.

*KYRIE

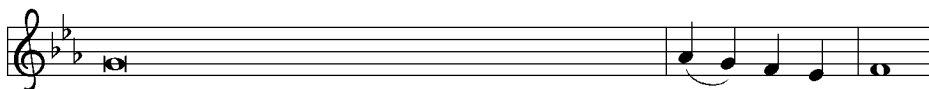
page 98 (in front of the hymnal)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



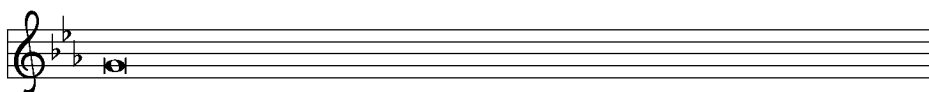
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



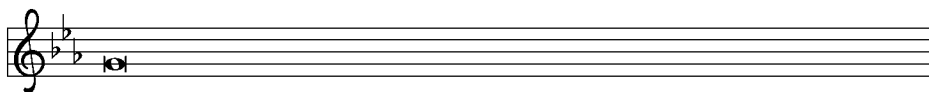
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC "God of Grace" Senior Choir (8 AM)

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 the LORD's 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.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***GOSPEL** John 9:1-41

The Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" which means Sent. Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The 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?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He 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." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." ¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had

formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then 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."
¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So 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." ¹⁸The 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 ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but 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." ²²His 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. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."
²⁴So 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." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."
²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He 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?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus 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 near 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.”

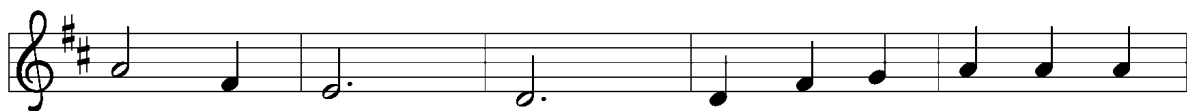
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

*HYMN “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” #815



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

***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**

P: Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*(After a brief silence...The **congregation** is invited to read aloud individually the prayer petitions as the spirit moves them. If more than one person reads the petition, all the better!)*

Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Creating God, by your word you have made all things, and you hate nothing you have made. Teach us to perceive the beauty of the breadth of your creation, from the grandest mountain range to the smallest springtime bud. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials. Encourage them to lead with justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those who grieve. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our host, you fill us at your table with more than we could ever ask. Feed us with hunger for justice. Equip the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God of love, watch over your servants that they may be faithful disciples of Jesus. Be with our confirmation students, especially Campbell and Gunnar as they seek to grow in their discipleship, and guide their families that together they may reflect your love and grace. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people. We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

P: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

***PEACE**

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

Please share a sign of peace with those around you.

MISSION MOMENT

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed our right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

***LORD'S PRAYER** page 112 (in front of hymnal)

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**

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

HOLY COMMUNION *All who believe that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, bringing to us the gift of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life, are welcome to gather at the Lord's Table. Younger children are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.*

Both wine and grape juice are available – grape juice glasses are circled in purple. Gluten free wafers are also available.

AGNUS DEI "Lamb of God"

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Amazing Grace"

#779

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

Amen.

*BLESSING

God, the giver of love, Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth, bless you in this Lenten journey.

Amen.

*HYMN

"Lead Me, Guide Me"

#768

Refrain

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;
for if you lead me, I can - not stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r
2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,
3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,

to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.
be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.
I am blind with - out thy light to see.

Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.
I am put - ting all my trust in thee.
Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

Refrain

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

***DISMISSAL** (*Done from the back of the church*)

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

OUR SAVIOR'S WORSHIP TEAM

www.oursaviorswestsalem.org

Pastor Jonathan Schmidt, Senior Pastor 612-0217

Email: pastorjon@oursaviorswestsalem.org

Pastor Jean Schmidt, Associate Pastor 612-0217

Email: pastorjean@oursaviorswestsalem.org

Linda Berg, Organist/Choir Accompanist/Director of Music

Email: linda@oursaviorswestsalem.org

Laurie Noelke, Handbell Choir Director/Assistant Worship Musician

Eric Sorenson, Senior Choir Director

WE THANK - Joey Barnett for filling in as choir director while Eric Sorenson is in Arizona. Joey is a graduate of UW-Eau Claire, a member of the Coulee Chordsmen, and teaches Elementary Music in Black River Falls. We appreciate his willingness to substitute! Please welcome him if you get the opportunity.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

6 p.m.

Deanna Christianson
Chad Vick
Maki Family

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

8 a.m.

Isaiah Laack
Pam Gresens
Massman Family

Worship Assistant
Communion Assistant
Welcoming Team

10:30 a.m.

Tracey Beckley
Premo Family

Home Communion
Altar Guild for March

Rasmussen Family
Cindy Averbek/Jaime Fortier

**Midweek Lenten Worship
Wednesdays in March - 6 PM**



Holden Evening Prayer

Led each week by a member of the choir ...

with the drama series ...

The Holidays of Lent

FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION Part 2 - March 26 from 1:30–3 PM. If you missed Part 1 and would like to be included, please speak to the pastors.



*Reconnecting with the past ...
"one bite at a time" Cookbook*

\$15

(Proceeds go toward the roof fund.)

EASTER GARDEN - Once again you will have the opportunity to fill the sanctuary with flowers in memory or honor of a loved one(s). The cost of the spring flowers will be \$24.

The money will be used to buy an assortment of spring flowers from Under the Rust for an Easter display.



Please fill out this form and submit the \$24 to the Church Office by March 27. These gifts and names will be acknowledged in the Easter Sunday Bulletin.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP - A time for fellowship and treats between services on Sundays! Please sign up to bring treats or to serve what others have provided.

BLOOD DRIVE - Monday, March 27
12:30-5:30 pm
Presbyterian Church West Salem



SUGAR CREEK BIBLE CAMP 2023 - To find more information about the summer schedule, check out the brochures on the kiosk in the Gathering Area or check out their website at: <http://wp.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org/>

OUR SAVIOR'S CAMPERSHIPS AVAILABLE

\$300 full week -- \$125 half week

Request forms due in the church office
NO LATER than May 11th

(Forms available in the church office,
or on our website – www.oursaviorswestsalem.org)

Remember that camperships will be given to the campers in worship the weekend of May 20-21 and it is the responsibility of the family to get the checks to camp.

Hungry Jar Offering for March Lutheran World Relief Emergency Response Fund

Following the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria, Lutheran World Relief is there to help, working with their trusted local partners to reach children, women, and men in desperate need.

Your gifts to LWR's emergency response fund will deliver urgently needed care and support like food, water, and other critically needed items, temporary shelter, medicine and supplies for clinics. Financial gifts are the number one need to assist our neighbors who are injured, hungry, and displaced from multiple earthquakes.



HUNGER THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:

Psalm 23:5 – “You prepare a table before me.”

Are you ready to chase down Leaks? Household water leaks can waste nearly 1 trillion gallons of water nationwide annually. This week March 20 through March 26, 2023 is the EPA's annual “Fix a Leak Week.” Did you know that the 1 Trillion gallons of wasted water each year is equal to the water used in 11 million homes. A shower leaking 10 drips a minute wastes 500 gallons of water per year. Have some fun this week and “Slow the Flow. ”