



March 9-10, 2024

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: oursaviorswestsalem.org/giving. Or text your gift amount to 608-471-7267 and follow the instructions on the response you receive. Or use the QR Code to the right. Thank you for your generosity and support of our work together.



Order of Worship

*Please stand as you are able

PRELUDE

WELCOME

***CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS** pp 211-212 *(in front of hymnal)*

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

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our
hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from
you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly
sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us
our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and
things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and
uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you
in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and
Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in
sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have
been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

***HYMN**

"Just As I Am, without One Plea"

#592



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y_a con - flict,
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry



shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

***GREETING** page 213 *(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 213 (*in front of the hymnal*)



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **Lord, have mer - cy.**
Lord, have mer - cy:



Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **Christ, have mer - cy.**
Christ, have mer - cy:



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **Lord, have mer - cy.**
Lord, have mer - cy:

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE** pp 213-215 (*in front of the hymnal*)

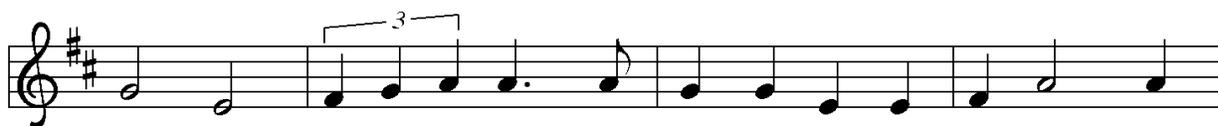
Refrain



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

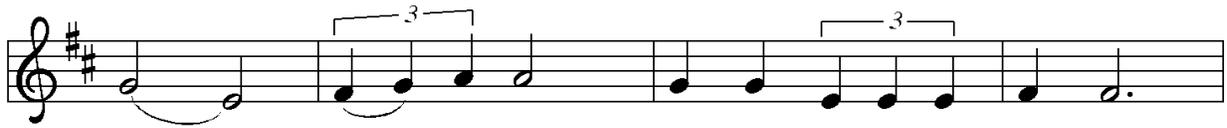
Refrain



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



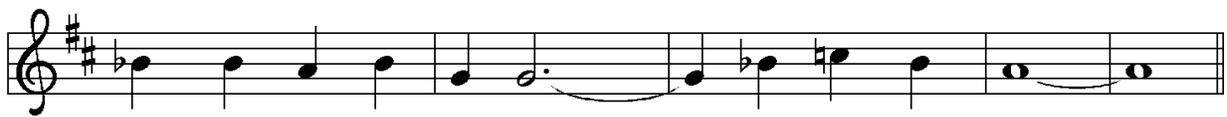
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Refrain
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



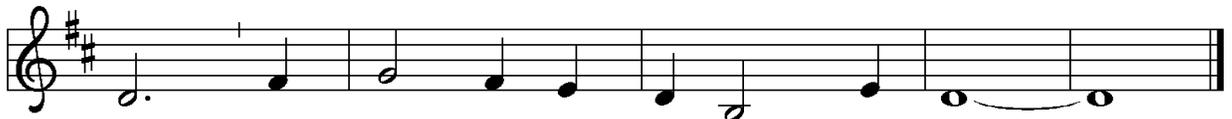
Spir-it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on



earth, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect 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.

SPECIAL MUSIC "God So Loved the World"

Senior Choir

10:30 am

READING Numbers 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

page 216 (*in front of hymnal*)

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, re - turn to the Lord, your
God, who is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful, slow to
an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

***GOSPEL** John 3:14-21

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

Jesus said ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

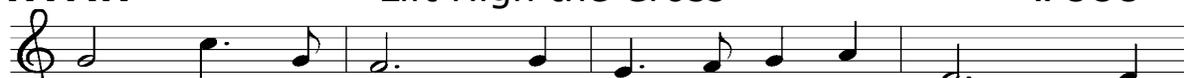
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

***HYMN**

“Lift High the Cross”

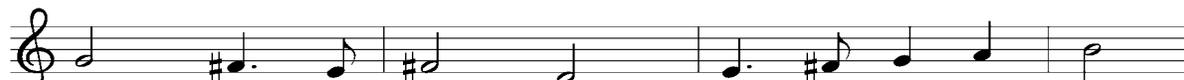
#660



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

***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: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*(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!)*

Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the earth's fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse oceans and rivers. Make us good stewards of the earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who courageously witness to your liberating love. Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Merciful God, your love heals. Care tenderly for all whose loved ones perished from pandemic disease in every nation. Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers. Relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain. Accompany those who are isolated, alone, or homebound, especially Gloria, Arnie, and Kathy. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds, and those of our living faith partners at Bethany Mauston to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another. Teach us to pray for our enemies. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Loving God, watch over your servants be faithful disciples of Jesus. Be with our confirmation students, especially Alana and Jesse as they seek to grow in their discipleship, and guide their families that together they may reflect your love and grace. Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Abiding God, your love saves. Those who died in the faith are made alive in Christ. We give thanks for your promise that we also will be raised to newness of life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, 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

***CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING** page 219 *(in front of the hymnal)*

Refrain

Sal - va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for -

ev - er and ev - er. 1 Great and won-der-ful are your deeds, O

God of the u - ni - verse; just and true are your ways, O

Rul - er of all the na-tions. Who can fail to hon-or you, Lord, and

Refrain

sing the glo - ry of your name? Sal - va-tion be-longs to our

God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

2 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, and

bles-sed is the one whose name is the Word of God. All

Refrain

praise and thanks to you, ho - ly God! Sal - va-tion be-longs to our

God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

***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.

***EUCCHARISTIC 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 the 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**

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

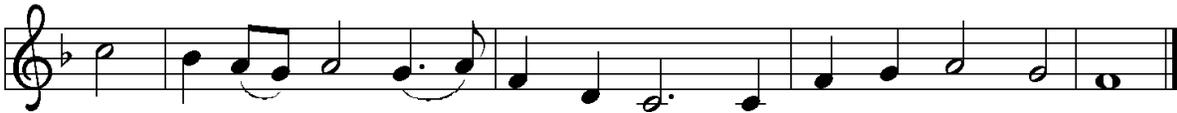
HOLY COMMUNION *All who believe that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, bringing to us the gift of forgiveness and the promise of eternal life, are welcome to gather at the Lord's Table. Younger children are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.*

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

AGNUS DEI "Lamb of God"



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN "Amazing Grace" **#779**

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

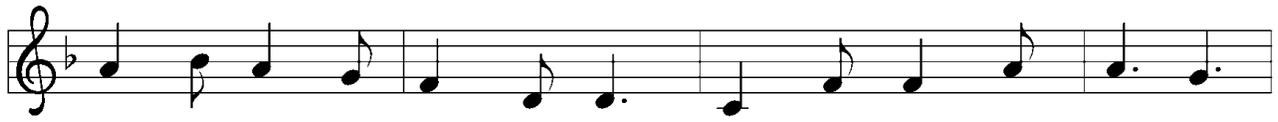
***SENDING OF HOME COMMUNION**

***BLESSING**

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and give you peace.

Amen.

***HYMN** "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" **#335**

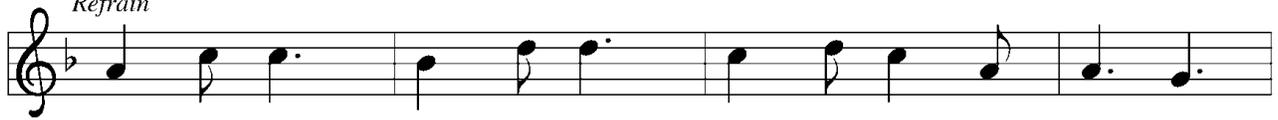


1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

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

Go in peace. Share your bread.

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.

CARD MINISTRY – Please be sure to sign the cards for this week’s shut-ins, Kathy Brisson, Gloria & Arnie Thompson. The cards are on the table by the Pre-K/K classroom.

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.

REMINDER – Easter Garden forms are due into the office by March 11.

SENIOR CONNECTION – Tuesday, March 12 at Linda’s Bakery 9:30 am.

WORSHIP LEADERS

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| | 6 p.m. |
| Worship Assistant | Lily Muellenberg |
| Communion Assistant | Judy Gilbert |
| Welcoming Team | Jon & Maryrose Hetland |

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| | 8 a.m. |
| Worship Assistant | Mya Peterson |
| Communion Assistant | Steve Ahles |
| Welcoming Team | Adam & Jessica Kennedy |

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| | 10:30 a.m. |
| Worship Assistant | Madison Phillips |
| Communion Assistant | Dottie Baumgartner |
| Welcoming Team | Jeff & Melissa Haldeman |

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Home Communion | Rasmussen Family |
| Altar Guild for March | Susan Giblin/Jill Iliff |

HUNGRY JAR OFFERING FOR MARCH **Feed Our Children – Summer Lunch Program**

It’s hard to believe, but we are already thinking ahead to summer and getting ready to serve lunch to the children in the community. Our March Hungry Jar offerings will help support this ministry to feed the children nutritious meals.



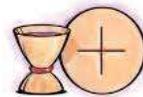
Last year (with lots of community help and support), we fed around 175 kids twice a week. That’s close to 4,000 meals over the summer!

Watch for more information as it gets closer to see how you, too, can be a part of this important ministry by sharing of your time and resources to help prepare and serve the lunches, and provide specific items that will be included in the meals.

FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION - Sunday, March 17 - 1:30-3PM

5th graders ... and any older kids who missed it. Learn about the Sacrament, create your own communion cup, and bake some "unleavened" bread.

Parents are asked to **join us!** For more information see Pastor Jean or Pastor Jon. Our students will receive communion for the first time during worship on Maundy Thursday, March 28, at 7 PM.



WEEKLY WATER FACT -Americans drink more than one billion glasses of tap water per day. Refilling a half-liter water bottle 1.740 times with tap water is the equivalent cost of a 99 cent water bottle at a convenience store. One third of what the world spends on bottled water in one year could pay for projects providing water to everyone in need.

SCRIP CARDS AVAILABLE

Help support Our Savior's Sugar Creek Bible Camp Camperships and World Hunger!



Culver's, Kwik Trip, Kwik Trip car wash, Woodman's, and Ship Shape car wash.

The Mom's Group invites you ...

Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday, March 24 at 10 AM
(During Sunday school)



Parents: We invite you to be a part of this event that the kids very much look forward to! Speak with Gretchen Eckland or Pastor Jean to help buy the treats and fill the eggs.



LENTEN WORSHIP

It's "Round Robin" Season!

Wednesdays March 13 & 20 @ 6:15 PM

Weekly worship featuring Holden Evening Prayer, with a message focusing on the "wandering heart" of the Apostle Peter. Come and explore with us a very imperfect, yet faithful servant of Jesus, and consider how Peter's story is...ours too!

An added treat this year is different voices! We are joining several congregations in a "round robin," as Pastor Jon travels...and other pastors join us to share the message!

March 13 – "Praise the mount" (*Pastor Jon*)

March 20 – "Teach me"

(Pr Kary Jonas, Prince of Peace, La Crescent)



We will have a simple meal, along with dessert, prior to the service each week at 5:30 PM.



Holy Week Worship Easter Worship

Palm Sunday

Saturday/6 PM & Sunday/8 + 10:30 AM

Holy Communion worship

Hearing the story of passion, sacrifice, and death ...

Maundy Thursday

7 PM Holy Communion with the
Stripping of the Altar as all is barren ...

Good Friday

1:30 PM Service of the Word
Pondering the Seven Last Words ...

8 PM Service of Tenebrae
The story ... as light descends into darkness ...



Easter Sunday

Festive Celebration of Holy Communion
6:30 + 8:30 + 10:30 AM
(NO Saturday worship)

Easter breakfast 7:30-8:30 AM

Surprise! New life in absolute abundance!



Come and join us...

Easter Breakfast!

7:30-8:30 AM

Coffee & Juice
Sausages + Fruit
Sweet rolls

A light breakfast as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and give thanks to God for the many gifts of life, including a simple meal, gathered together! Donation baskets to cover the expenses will be on each table.

Check out the March newsletter (www.oursaviorswestsalem.org) to find out more.