

Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church  
4715 Hermantown Rd., Hermantown, MN 55811

**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**~ FEBRUARY 8, 2026 ~ 10:00 am**

**GATHERING**

**WELCOME**

\* **CALL TO WORSHIP “Open My Eyes Lord”**

Vs. 1 Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see your face.  
Open my eyes, Lord. Help me to see.

Vs. 2 Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear your voice.  
Open my ears, Lord. Help me to hear.

Vs. 3 Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love like you.  
Open my heart, Lord. Help me to love.

Vs. 4 I live within you. Deep in your heart, O Love.  
I live within you. Rest now in me.

\* **CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

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

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free**

***ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.***

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

\* **GREETING**

P: 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**

P: Lord God, our heavenly Father, you have created us, and we are yours; hear the prayer of your children.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Lord Jesus Christ, atonement for our sins, you have risen from the dead; come and stay among us.

**C: Christ, have mercy.**

P: Holy Spirit, Comforter, you are the true source of joy; open our hearts to give you our thanks.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

\* **HYMN OF PRAISE “Christ Our Hope in Life and Death”**

What is our hope in life and death?

Christ alone, Christ alone

What is our only confidence?

That our souls to him belong

Who holds our days within his hand?

What comes, apart from his command?

And what will keep us to the end?

The love of Christ, in which we stand

O sing hallelujah!

Our hope springs eternal

O sing hallelujah!

Now and ever we confess

Christ our hope in life and death

What truth can calm the troubled soul?

God is good, God is good

Where is his grace and goodness known?

In our great Redeemer's blood

Who holds our faith when fears arise?

Who stands above the stormy trial?

Who sends the waves that bring us nigh

Unto the shore, the rock of Christ?

O sing hallelujah!

Our hope springs eternal

O sing hallelujah!

Now and ever we confess

Christ our hope in life and death

Unto the grave, what will we sing?

"Christ, he lives; Christ, he lives!"

And what reward will heaven bring?

Everlasting life with him

And we will rise to meet the Lord

Then sin and death will be destroyed

And we will feast in endless joy

When Christ is ours forevermore

O sing hallelujah!

Our hope springs eternal

O sing hallelujah!

Now and ever we confess

Christ our hope in life and death

O sing hallelujah!

Our hope springs eternal

O sing hallelujah!

Now and ever we confess

Christ our hope in life and death

Now and ever we confess

Christ our hope in life and death

\* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Lord God,

***C: with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**WORD**

**FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 58:1-9a**

<sup>1</sup>Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. <sup>2</sup>Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side. <sup>3</sup>“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. <sup>4</sup>You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. <sup>5</sup>Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? <sup>6</sup>Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? <sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? <sup>8</sup>Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. <sup>9</sup>Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.” If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 112:1-9**

*Please read responsively*

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD and have great delight in God's commandments!

**<sup>2</sup>Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.**

<sup>3</sup>Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.

**<sup>4</sup>Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion. Light shines in the darkness**

**for the upright.**

<sup>5</sup>It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.

**<sup>6</sup>For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

<sup>7</sup>They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

**<sup>8</sup>Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

<sup>9</sup>They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

### **SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. <sup>2</sup>For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. <sup>4</sup>My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, <sup>5</sup>so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. <sup>6</sup>Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. <sup>7</sup>But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. <sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup>But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"—<sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>Now we

have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

\* **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”**

Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

\* **GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-20**

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

\* **GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-20**

[Jesus said:] <sup>13</sup>"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. <sup>14</sup>You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup>No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. <sup>17</sup>Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup>For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter will pass from the law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup>Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**SERMON SONG “Light of the World”**

You are the light of the world  
You are the light of the world  
So shine, shine, shine where you are  
You are the light of the world

You are a city on a hill  
You are a city on a hill  
So shine, shine, shine where you are  
You are a city on a hill

You are a candle in the dark  
You are a candle in the dark  
So shine, shine, shine where you are  
You are a candle in the dark

You are the light of the world  
You are the light of the world  
So shine, shine, shine where you are  
You are the light of the world

\* **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 into hell.

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.

\* JOYS, SORROWS & CONCERNS

\* PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

**MEAL**

PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

OFFERING COLLECTION

P: We will accept our offering at this time.

\* OFFERING ***“Give Thanks”***

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One;

Give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ, His Son. **Repeat**

And now let the weak say, “I am strong;”

Let the poor say, “I am rich,” because of what the Lord has done for us. **Repeat**

Give thanks! Give thanks!

\* OFFERING PRAYER

**C: God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, or redeemer and Lord. Amen.**

\* GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

\* WORDS OF INSTITUTION

\* LORD’S PRAYER

***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.***

***Amen.***

***“Behold the Lamb”***

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,

Slain for us - and we remember

The promise made that all who come in faith

Find forgiveness at the cross.

So we share in this bread of life,

And we drink of His sacrifice

As a sign of our bonds of peace

Around the table of the King.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION SONGS

***“Grace Flows Down”***

Amazing Grace How sweet the sound

Amazing love Now flowing down

From hands and feet

That were nailed to the tree

As Grace flows down and covers me (2x)

***Chorus***

***It covers me***

***It covers me***

***It covers me***

***And covers me***

Amazing Grace How sweet the sound  
Amazing love Now flowing down  
From hands and feet  
That were nailed to the tree  
As Grace flows down and covers me **Chorus**

**Chorus**

**It covers me**

**It covers me**

**It covers me**

**And covers me**

**“Blessings”**

We pray for blessings, we pray for peace  
Comfort for family, protection while we sleep  
We pray for healing, for prosperity  
We pray for Your mighty hand  
To ease our suffering  
And all the while, You hear each spoken need  
Yet love us way too much to give us lesser things  
'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops?  
What if Your healing comes through tears?  
What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know  
You're near?  
And what if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise?  
We pray for wisdom, Your voice to hear  
And we cry in anger when we cannot feel You near  
We doubt Your goodness, we doubt Your love  
As if every promise from Your word is not enough  
And all the while, You hear each desperate plea  
And long that we'd have faith to believe

'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops?  
What if Your healing comes through tears?  
And what if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know  
You're near?  
And what if trials of this life  
Are Your mercies in disguise?  
When friends betray us  
And when darkness seems to win, we know  
The pain reminds this heart  
That this is not, this is not our home  
It's not our home  
'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops?  
What if Your healing comes through tears?  
And what if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know  
You're near?  
What if my greatest disappointments  
Or the aching of this life  
Is the revealing of a greater thirst  
This world can't satisfy?  
And what if trials of this life  
The rain, the storms, the hardest nights  
Are Your mercies in disguise?

**COMMUNION BLESSING**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: Let us pray. Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

## SENDING

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

\* **BENEDICTION**

\* **SENDING SONG “In Christ Alone“**

Vs.1 In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,  
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in All,  
here in the love of Christ I stand.

Vs.2 In Christ alone! who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones he came to save:  
Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied -  
For every sin on Him was laid;  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

Vs.3 There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain:  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave he rose again!  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine -  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

Vs.4 No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me;

From life's first cry to final breath.  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand;  
Till He returns or calls me home,  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

\* **DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

*\* Please stand if you are able*

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## WELCOME

We are delighted to welcome those of you visiting with us today.  
Communion is open to all who believe. ***If you need gluten-free bread  
or prefer grape juice, please let the servers know.*** As you receive  
the bread for Communion, please hold your hands out. ***Notify the usher  
if you want to be served in the pew.***

**This Week a Salem**

**TODAY, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026**

Worship .....	10:00 am
Coffee Fellowship .....	11:00 am
Cub Scouts.....	4:00 pm

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026**

Day Care .....	6:00 am
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**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2026**

Day Care .....	6:00 am
Thrive! Support Group .....	6:00 pm
Generosity Team .....	6:30 pm

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026**

Day Care .....	6:00 am
Quilters.....	9:30 am
Trillium Works! The Collective .....	3:00-4:30 pm

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026**

Day Care.....	6:00 am
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**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2026**

Day Care .....	6:00 am
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**NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2026**

Youth Education .....	9:00 am
Worship .....	10:00 am
Coffee Fellowship .....	11:00 am
Prison Ministry .....	12:00 pm
Cub Scouts .....	4:00 pm

# Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church



## Sundays at Salem

~ Youth Education ~ ~ 9:00 am ~  
~ Worship ~ ~ 10:00 am ~  
~ Coffee Fellowship ~

**Rev. John Ansell**

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*“Our Mission is to pass on the faith by involving all members of our community in Christ’s ministry.”*