

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

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
~ MARCH 1, 2026~

WELCOME

* **CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

P: Loving God,

C: we confess that we often turn away from you and turn toward behaviors that yield brokenness in our lives. Forgive us, God. Teach us compassion and self-sacrifice. May our words and deeds be manna to those who hunger for justice and mercy. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

P: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. In the name of Jesus, I declare that your sins are forgiven.

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: You were sent to heal the broken hearted.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: You came to call all sinners to your grace and love.

C: Christ, have mercy.

P: You are seated at the right hand of the Father where you have prepared a heavenly home for us.

C: Lord, have mercy.

* **PROCESSION**

L: Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

C: The light no darkness can overcome;

L: Stay with us now for it is evening;

C: And the day is almost over;

L: Let your light scatter the darkness,

C: And shine within your people here.

* **EVENING HYMN**

Joyous light of heav'nly glory , loving glow of God's own face, you who sing creation's story, shine on every land and race. Now as evening falls around us, we will raise our songs to you, God of daybreak, God of shadows, come and light our hearts anew.

In the stars that grace the darkness, in the blazing sun of dawn, in the light of peace and wisdom, we can hear your quiet song. Love that fills the night with wonder, love that warms the weary soul, Love that bursts all chains asunder set us free and make us whole.

You who made the heaven's splendor, ev'ry dancing star of night, make us shine with gentle justice, let us each reflect your light. Mighty God of all creation, gentle Christ who lights our way, Loving Spirit, of salvation, lead us on to endless day.

* **EVENING THANKSGIVING**

L: May God be with you all,

C: And also with you;

L: Let us sing our thanks to God,

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise

Holden Page 2

Holden Page 3

Holden Page 4

L: Blessed are you creator of the universe, from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.

C: Amen.

* **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: O God,

C: our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 12:1-4a

¹The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." ⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

* **Psalm 141**

Holden Page 4

Let my prayer rise up like incense before you, the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.

O God I call to you, come to me
Now; O hear my voice when I
cry to you. Let my prayer rise
up like incense before you, the
lifting up of my hands as an offering to

you. Keep watch within me God;
deep in my heart may the light of your love be
burning bright. Let my prayer rise
up like incense before you, the
lifting up of my hands as an offering to
you All praise to the God of all Cre-
ator of life; all praise be to Christ and the
Spirit of love. Let my prayer rise
up like incense before you, the
lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.

L: May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives

C: Amen.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

¹What are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. ¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead

and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

* **GOSPEL: John 3:1-17**

P: The holy gospel according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

* **John 3:1-17**

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And 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. ¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

P: The Light shines in the darkness

C: and the darkness has not overcome it.

SERMON

SERMON SONG "Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery"

vs. 1-3 & Lent 2

Hymn #334

Vs. 1: Tree of life and awesome mystery,
In your death we are reborn,
Though you die in all of history,
still you rise with every morn,
Still you rise with every morn.

Verse 2: We remember truth once spoken,
love passed on through act and word,
Every person, lost and broken
wears the body of our Lord,
wears the body of our Lord.

Verse 3: Christ you lead and we shall follow,
stumbling though our steps may be,
One with you in joy and sorrow,
we the river you the sea,
we the river you the sea.

Lent 2: In our call to be a blessing,
may we be a blessing true;
may we live and die confessing
Christ as Lord of all we do.
Christ as Lord of all we do.

(The offering is received at this time.)

* **OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Merciful God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have

first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

* **THE ANNUNCIATION** *Holden Page 8*

L: An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her “Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen one of God most high” And Mary said “I am the servant of my God I live to do your will”

* **THE MAGNIFICAT** *Holden Page 8*

Vs. 1 My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you, You have looked with love on your servant here and blessed me all my life through. Great and mighty are you, O Holy One, strong is your kindness evermore. How you favor the weak and lowly one, humbling the proud of heart.

Vs. 2 You have cast the mighty down from their thrones, and uplifted the humble of heart, You have filled the hungry with wondrous things, and left the wealthy no part. Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One, strong is your justice, strong your love, As you promised to Sarah and Abraham, kindness forevermore.

Vs. 3 My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you, You have looked with love on your servant here and blessed me all my life through.

* **LITANY AND PRAYERS**

Holden Page 10

L: In peace in peace, we pray to you;

C: God of mercy, hold us in love

L: For peace and salvation, we pray to you;

C: God of mercy, hold us in love.

L: For peace between nations, for peace between peoples;

C: God of mercy, hold us in love.

L: For us who are gathered to worship and praise you;

C: God of mercy, hold us in love.

L: For all of your servants who live out your gospel;

C: God of mercy, hold us in love.

L: For all those who govern, that justice might guide them;

C: God of mercy, hold us in love.

L: For all those who labor in service to others;

C: God of mercy, hold us in love.

L: Grant weather that nourishes all of creation;

C: God of mercy, hold us in love.

L: Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from danger;

C: God of mercy, hold us in love.

L: For all the beloved who rest in your mercy;

C: God of mercy, hold us in love.

L: Help us comfort us, all of our days.

C: Keep us, hold us, gracious God.

L: Great and merciful God, Source and Ground of all goodness and life, give to you people the peace that passes all understanding, and the will to live your Gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: 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**

Holden Page 11

P: God remember us in your love, and teach us to pray

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed, be your name. Your kingdom come; your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

"Behold the Lamb" vs. 1

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 SONGS:

"We Fall Down"

We fall down
We lay our crowns
At the feet of Jesus

The greatness of mercy and love
At the feet of Jesus

We cry holy, holy, holy
We cry holy, holy, holy
We cry holy, holy, holy
Is the lamb

We fall down
We lay our crowns
At the feet of Jesus
The greatness of
Mercy and love

At the feet of Jesus
We cry holy, holy, holy
We cry holy, holy, holy
We cry holy, holy, holy
Is the lamb

"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

Hymn #335

Vs. 1 Jesus, keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain;
free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

**Refrain: In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.**

Vs. 2 Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me.

Refrain

Vs. 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me. **Refrain**

Vs. 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river. **Refrain**

* **POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

* **PRAYER**

L: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

* **PRAYER FOR THE SENDING OF COMMUNION**

Compassionate God, as Jesus called disciples to follow him, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick/homebound/or imprisoned. May these gifts be signs of our love and prayers that through the sharing of the body and blood of Christ, all may know your grace and healing revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

* **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* **FINAL BLESSING**

Holden Page 12

L: Let us bless our God;

C: *praise and thanks to you.*

C: *May God, Creator bless us and keep us, may Christ be ever light for our lives, may the Spirit of Love be our guide and path, for all of our days. Amen.*

* **DISMISSAL**

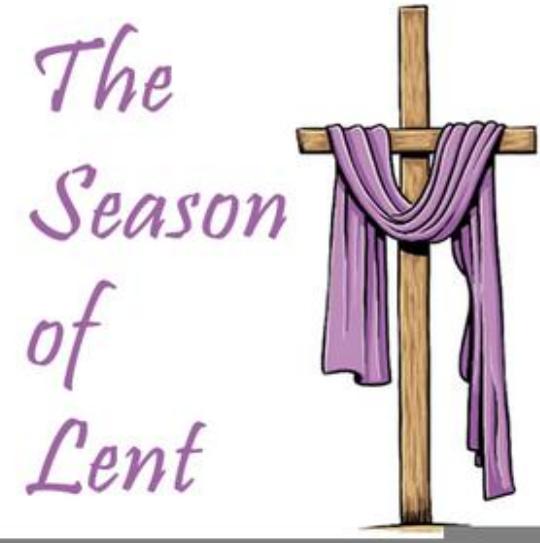
L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

POSTLUDE

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Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church



Sundays at Salem

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

Rev. John Ansell

**4715 Hermantown Rd., Hermantown, MN 55811
218-727-1357**

Email – salemhermantown@gmail.com

Web – www.slecduluth.org

Facebook – Salem Lutheran Church

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

WELCOME

We are delighted to welcome those of you visiting with us, for we know that you have been brought by God. So in God's name we are honored to welcome you. The Lord's Supper is offered to all. If you are hungry for God, come. ***If you need gluten-free bread, please come to the rail for communion.*** As you receive the bread for Communion, hold your hands out to receive the Body of Christ. If you prefer grape juice, please tell the server as you receive the Blood of Christ. *Notify the usher if you want to be served in the pew.*

Online Midweek Lent Devotion

During the season of Lent Pastor John will be uploading to Salem's Facebook page a short reflection video on Wednesdays beginning March 25th. Each video will have a reading from a Psalm followed by a brief message and prayer. Hopefully these videos will provide time to spiritually reflect and an appreciation of the poetic words from the book of Psalms.

Men's Group:

Beginning on March 7th at 10 am Salem will host a men's group. During the next couple of months, the group will be exploring a study called **Surprised By Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church** by N.T. Wright. The men's group will meet on the first and third Saturday of the month from March until the end of May. This will be a great time for connecting, learning, and fellowship.

March "Mac" Madness

March is MN Foodshare Month- a time when food shelves become bare so it is time to gear up and replenish. **This year Salem is focusing our food drive on Mac & Cheese! This year's goal is 100 boxes of Mac & Cheese!** Monetary donations are also very welcome. You can bring your donations in any time during the Month of March. Let's help restock the shelves!

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This Week a Salem

TODAY, SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 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 |

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2026

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| Day Care | 6:00 am |
|----------------|---------|

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Day Care..... | 6:00 am |
| Ruth Circle @Bev Nordwall's | 1:00 pm |
| Thrive! Support Group..... | 6:00 pm |

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| Day Care | 6:00 am |
|----------------|---------|

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| Day Care | 6:00 am |
|----------------|---------|

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2026

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Men's Group | 10:00 am |
|-------------------|----------|

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026

Daylight Savings Time Begins

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Youth Education | 9:00 am |
| Worship | 10:00 am |
| Coffee Fellowship | 11:00 am |
| Cub Scouts | 4:00 pm |

This Week a Salem

TODAY, SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Youth Education | 9:00 am |
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| Cub Scouts..... | 4:00 pm |

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2026

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| Day Care | 6:00 am |
|----------------|---------|

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Day Care..... | 6:00 am |
| Ruth Circle @Bev Nordwall's | 1:00 pm |
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|---------------------------------|-----------|
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THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| Day Care | 6:00 am |
|----------------|---------|

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| Day Care | 6:00 am |
|----------------|---------|

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2026

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Men's Group..... | 10:00 am |
|------------------|----------|

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026

Daylight Savings Time Begins

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Youth Education..... | 9:00 am |
| Worship | 10:00 am |
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