

Salem Lutheran Church

115 N. Washington Ave., Albert Lea

Easter Day

April 5, 2026

This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, "God shows no partiality" (Acts 10:34): Christ's resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God's faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God's endless love.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

*** LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE**

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Repeated three times during the procession:

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Then:

Rejoice, now, all heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!

Exult, all creation, around God's throne! Jesus Christ is risen!

Celebrate the divine mysteries with exultation;

and for so great a victory, sound the trumpet of salvation.

**Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor,
radiant in the brightness of your king!**

Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever!

Rejoice, O holy church! Exult in glory!

The risen Savior shines upon you!

**Let this place resound with joy,
echoing the mighty song of all God's people.**

We pray that this candle, burning as witness to the risen Christ,
may ever be a beacon of faith and a light for our path.

Amen

***GREETING**

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.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, "receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:24)

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good;
God's mercy endures forever.

²Let Israel now declare,
"God's mercy endures forever."

¹⁴The LORD is my strength and my song,

and has become | my salvation.

¹⁵**Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents | of the righteous:**

“The right hand of the | LORD acts valiantly!

¹⁶The right hand of the LORD| is exalted!

The right hand of the | LORD acts valiantly!”

¹⁷**I shall not | die, but live,**

and declare the works | of the LORD. R

¹⁸The LORD indeed pun- | ished me sorely,

but did not hand me o- | ver to death.

¹⁹**Open for me the | gates of righteousness;**

I will enter them and give thanks | to the LORD.

²⁰“This is the gate | of the LORD;

here the righ- | teous may enter.”

²¹**I give thanks to you, for you have | answered me**

and you have become | my salvation. R

²²The stone that the build- | ers rejected

has become the chief | cornerstone.

²³**By the LORD has | this been done;**

it is marvelous | in our eyes.

²⁴This is the day that the | LORD has made;

let us rejoice and be | glad in it. R

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-4

Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.

¹ If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**

ELW #174

***GOSPEL READING: Matthew 28:1-10**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Sorrow gives way to “fear and great joy” when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!

¹ After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the

guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

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

SERMON

Pastor Mark Boorsma

***HYMN**

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

ELW #382

RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM

Page 227-231

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Trusting in the power of Christ’s resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

Risen Savior, you have conquered death and opened the gates of everlasting life. Dispel our doubts and fears and renew our faith and hope in you.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Life-giving God, the created world rejoices in Christ’s victory over death. May all the earth be renewed by the light of Jesus’ resurrection, and may we be faithful stewards of all you have made.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Sovereign God, let the nations acknowledge your reign of justice and truth. Where violence, oppression, and corruption hold sway, pour out your holy and life-giving Spirit to transform and redeem.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Gentle Shepherd, like the women at the empty tomb, many grieve or feel lost and afraid. Draw near to those who are ill or in pain especially Pat, Dan, Andrea, Larry, Tammy, Dean, Del and all others on our hearts and minds this day. Reveal yourself to them as the Risen One.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Faithful God, we thank you for the living hope you give us through Christ's resurrection. Bless this community, that we may boldly proclaim Christ's victory over death in word and deed.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Eternal One, we give thanks for all who have died and now share in the joy of your resurrection. Bring us, with them, to the unending feast of your victory.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

***OFFERING**

We very much appreciate your continued giving and generosity at this time.

Offering can be placed in the offering plate at the door.

***OFFERTORY**

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

ELW # 678

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

***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.**

***Hymn**

Now the Green Blade Rises

ELW #379

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy One,
through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new.
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
to love our enemies,
and to bring your healing to the nations.
In the name of Jesus,
Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***BLESSING**

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

***HYMN**

Thine Is the Glory

#376

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Assisting in Worship

Lector: Donna Werner
Coffee: Salem Lutheran Church Council
Ushers: Paul & Judy Dilling

Thank you to Bev Lombardi for the beautiful music this morning.

Flowers near the altar are given by Jim & Mary Gulbrandson.

Our prayers are with Kathy Paul and family on the recent death of her daughter,
Mary Paul.

Baptized this morning is Arlo James Langrud, son of Luther Langrud & Jaspar Flatten.
Sponsors for Arlo are: Elliott Flatten, Brooke Talamantes, Strauss Langrud & Ali Eickhoff.
The baptismal candle is given by the Salem Altar Guild, the rose by Salem Women of Salem
and the quilt by Sew 'N Tell.

This Week at Salem

Monday, April 6: Church offices closed
Tuesday, April 7: 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Friday, April 10: 6:30 a.m. Friday Bible Study

Next Sunday, April 12: 9:00 a.m. Coffee 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Plants Given for Easter

*Given in honor of our children, grandchildren & great grandchildren by
Cynthia Nelson.*

Given in memory of Roger C. Nelson by Cynthia Nelson.

Given in honor of Laurence Kohn by Jim & Mary Gulbrandson.

*Given in memory of Ella Rita Kohn, Justin Kohn and the Gulbrandson family by
Jim & Mary Gulbrandson.*

Given in memory of Leland Dilling and Wayne Dilling by Sharon Dilling & family.

Given in honor of loved ones by Beth Spande.

Given in memory of past members of the Holty family by Eileen Holty.

Given in memory of loved ones by Frank & Pat Gjersvik.

Given in honor of our family by Larry & Mary Lahs.

Given in memory of past Salem members by Larry & Mary Lahs.

Given in honor of our Grandchildren by Kent & Vicki Reichl.

Given in memory of Dottie & Lynn Ann Raveling by Kent & Vicki Reichl

Given in memory of my loved ones by Audrey Johannsen.

Given in honor of Arlo James Langrud by Tony & Jaclyn Flatten.

Given in memory of Clint Allen Stevens by Tony & Jaclyn Flatten.

Given in memory of Joe Van Reese by his Loving Family.

Given in memory of Lloyd & Marion Shaunce by Kathy DePope.

***Thank you for sharing your plants with us for our Easter morning worship.
Please take your plants home with you following the service. Please check
off your name on the list that is on the front pew on the south side of the
church. Thank you.***