

First Sunday after Epiphany

January 10-11, 2026



Salem Lutheran

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Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve in joy.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP: Savior Jesus, we praise you for your fulfillment of all righteousness accomplished for our salvation. We marvel in our own baptisms that your name was written on our hearts and we were adopted into the family of believers. Pour out your Spirit now through your Word that we may be further encouraged of the new life you have called us in. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: “Christ” is not the family name of Jesus. It is a title. The Greek word “Christ” and the Hebrew word “Messiah” both mean the same thing: “The Anointed One.” Anointing was the practice of pouring liquid over the head of someone to signify selection for some special task. When the Lord had someone anointed, he also poured his Spirit over them. It was the fulfillment of promises made over centuries.

OUR WORSHIP SERIES: “Epiphany” comes from a Greek word that means “reveal.” In this season we see Jesus begin his public ministry, revealing the reason the Son of God came to earth. During Epiphany, we come to understand that when the true identity of Jesus is revealed, we realize our own true identity as well.

A WORD ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION: Our church observes the biblical practice of member communion (also called close communion). In Holy Communion we not only receive forgiveness from God, but we also express the unique relationship our members have with each other. If you are not a member of our congregation, we kindly ask that you not take communion today, but speak with our pastor after the service. We would love to share the sacrament with you in the future.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Order of Worship

CW Hymnal, Setting One



Hymn: *Hail to the Lord's Anointed*

CW 384 sts. 1, 4

1 Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son!
4 O'er ev'ry foe victorious, he on his throne shall rest,

Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
from age to age more glorious, all blessing and all blest.

He comes to break opposition, to set the captive free,
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;

to take away transgression, and rule in equity,
his name shall stand forever—that name to us is Love.

Please stand.

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

Congregation: Amen.

CONFESSiON & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

C: **Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.** (Psalm 32)

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

And we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,
according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

M: God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

C: Amen.

Glory Be to God on High: Christ Is with Me

CW 681

Vs 1 will be sung by the praise group. The congregation is invited to join in the remaining verses.



1 We were bur - ied with him in - to death, that as he was raised
2 I have now been graft-ed to the vine, draw-ing life from roots
3 I have now been cru - ci - fied with Christ, I no long - er live,



by God's glo - ry, we might walk in life made new by grace;
rich in mer - cy, bear - ing fruit as I a - bide in him,
Christ lives in me; now I live by faith in God's own Son—



hav - ing died with Christ, we shall live with him.
fruit for - ev - er fresh, glo - ri - fy - ing God.
one who loved me so, gave him - self for me.

Refrain



Christ is with me ev - 'ry - where I go;



nev - - er to leave me, this I know.

THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan, you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children, and make us heirs with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be seated.

First Reading

Isaiah 42:1-7

The Lord promises to put his Spirit on the Messiah.

¹“Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations.

²He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets.

³A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.

In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;

⁴he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth.
In his teaching the islands will put their hope.”

⁵This is what God the LORD says—
the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out,
who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it,
who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it:

⁶“I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness;
I will take hold of your hand.

I will keep you and will make you
to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles,

⁷to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison
and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Acts 10:34-38

The Holy Spirit was poured out onto Peter's listeners as he told them how God anointed Jesus.

³⁴Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism ³⁵but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and

does what is right.³⁶ You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. ³⁷ You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 1:11



Refrain



You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased. *Refrain*

Gospel

Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus tells us a story of God's incredible generosity.

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

¹⁵ Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Be seated.

Children's Devotion

Hymn: To Jordan's River Came Our Lord

CW 377 sts. 1-4, 6



1 To Jor - dan's riv - er came our Lord, the Christ, whom
2 The Sav - ior came to be bap - tized— the Son of
3 As Je - sus in the Jor - dan stood and John bap -
4 Then from God's throne with thun - drous sound came God's own
6 Now rise, faint hearts: be res - o - lute! This man is



heav'n - ly hosts a - dored, the God from God, the
God in flesh dis - guised— to stand be - neath the
tized the Lamb of God, the Ho - ly Spir - it,
voice with words pro - found: "This is my Son," was
Christ, our sub - sti - tute! He was bap - tized in



Light from Light, the Lord of glo - ry, pow'r, and might.
Fa - ther's will and all his prom - is - es ful - fill.
heav'n - ly dove, de - scand - ed on him from a - bove.
his de - cree, "the one I love, who pleas - es me."
Jor - dan's stream, pro - claimed Re - deem - er, Lord su - preme.

Sermon

Matthew 3

"Pour on Forgiveness"

Please stand after the sermon.

THANKSGIVING

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
 and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
 who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated.

Offering



Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.

We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.

 Connect Card



 Give Online

Please stand.

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. The meal also bears witness to the unity and fellowship we share with each other. Therefore, we invite to communion all those who share in our confession by virtue of their membership here or in a sister WELS or ELS congregation. We ask visitors to speak to the pastor before communing.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en-ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -
san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he,
bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my \texttilde body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my \texttilde blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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

C: Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God

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

Be seated.

Communion Distribution

For those who cannot have any alcohol for personal or medical reasons we offer white grape juice. You will find cups of white grape juice in the center of each communion tray. Gluten-free wafers are available by request for those medically unable to tolerate gluten.

Communicants may choose to receive the wine by individual or common cup. If you choose the common cup, please allow the individual tray to pass and then assist the minister by helping to tip the common cup.

Hymn: Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared

CW 667 sts. 1-4



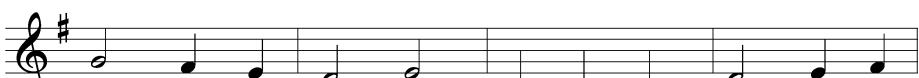
1 Lord Je - sus Christ, you have pre - pared this feast for
2 Al - though you did to heav'n as - cend, where an - gel
3 Yet, Sav - ior, you are not con - fined to an - y
4 We eat this bread and drink this cup, your pre - cious



our sal - va - tion; it is your bod - y
hosts are dwell - ing, and in your pres - ence
hab - i - ta - tion, but you are pres - ent
Word be - liev - ing that your true bod - y



and your blood, and at your in - vi - ta - tion
they be - hold your glo - ry, all ex - cel - ling,
ev - 'ry - where and with your con - gre - ga - tion.
and your blood our lips are here re - ceiv - ing.



as wea - ry souls, with sin op-pressed, we come to
and though your peo - ple shall not see your glo - ry
Firm as a rock this truth shall stand, un - moved by
This Word re - mains for - ev - er true, and there is



you for need - ed rest, for com - fort, and for par - don.
and your maj - es - ty till dawns the judg - ment morn - ing,
an - y dar - ing hand or sub - tle craft and cun - ning.
naught you can - not do, for you, Lord, are al - might - y.

Hymn: Christ, Your Footprints through the Desert CW 379 sts. 1-3



1 Christ, your foot - prints through the des - ert led to Jor - dan's
2 Christ, you heard the stir - ring sum - mons as by Jor - dan's
3 Son of God, the road from Jor - dan led at last to



flow - ing stream; there you heard the her - ald cry - ing
bank you stood; bathed, though sin - less, with your peo - ple
Cal - vry's hill. There up - on the cross for - sak - en,



Is - rael's old, pro - phet - ic dream: "He is com - ing! He is
in the riv - er's cleans-ing flood. High a - bove, the heav - ens
you ful - filled the Fa - ther's will. Lamb of God, we see you



com - ing! He will cleanse the earth with flame! Sin - ners,
o - pened; came the Spir - it as a dove; spoke a
dy - ing, sin - less, yet for sin - ners slain. But where



plunge be -neath the wa -ters! Wash a -way your guilt and shame!"
voice be -yond all hear -ing: "See my Son, the One I love!"
death rose up to tri - umph, you be -gan your glo - rious reign!

Please stand at the pastor's direction.

Response of Thanksgiving

M: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: His mercy endures forever.

Psalm 118:1

M: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

Closing Prayer

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

Hymn: Christ, Your Footprints through the Desert

CW 379 st. 4



4 God, in Bap - tism you have made us one with Christ, our
ris - en Lord, freed us, claimed us, cleansed, for - giv - en
thro' the wa - ter and the Word. Help us hear your ur - gent
sum - mons, call - ing us to serve you now. Send us
forth, your sons and daugh - ters, with the cross up - on our brow.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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Annual Pancake Breakfast

This morning all are invited to gather in the fellowship hall to enjoy a pancake breakfast between services. Enjoy time catching up on stories from over the holidays with each other as we gather and encourage one another for another year in the Lord's grace!

For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Identity Revealed: Jesus is the Lamb of God

Bible Readings: Isaiah 49:1-6, Colossians 2:6-15, John 1:29-41

Hymns: 550, 375, 947

PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

(Also printed in the hymnal)

Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

A: *He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.*

Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

A: *I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?*

Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

A: *I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.*

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

A: *His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.*

Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

A: *In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.*

Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

A: *I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."*

Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

A: *I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.*

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.

Welcome to worship!

FOR OUR GUESTS

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help. Please take note of a few helpful things:

- † **Restrooms** are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance. Both men's and women's restrooms are equipped with **diaper changing tables** for your convenience.
- † Our sanctuary is equipped with an amplified "loop" system for **hearing assistance**. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position.
- † You will find a **connection card** in your pew. We ask members and guests to share their names and contact info, and invite you to share requests for contact or prayers. Cards can be placed in the offering basket or left on the table near the sanctuary entrance.
- † Salem members give an **offering** to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to make a donation you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.

FOR THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing and pray and grow with us in our services. Please note these special worship aids and helps for families:

- † Children's bulletins & "*quiet bags*" for your child's use in worship are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- † If your child needs to be nursed or quieted for a few moments you can use our "*cry room*" down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is shown live on a TV in the room.
- † Sunday mornings, before the hymn of the day and sermon, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for a short devotion on God's Word. Parents may accompany their children as they wish.

Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.

