

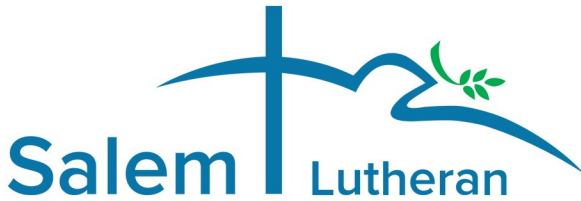
Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026



Alive

Hope Restored



14940 62nd St. N - Stillwater, MN 55082

651-439-7831

www.salemlutheran.org

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: Risen Savior Jesus, comfort us today with the good news of your resurrection and love. You take away our doubts and you restore our hope in your word and sacraments. Bless our worship together. Amen.

THEME OF THE DAY: Without the resurrection of Jesus, we would have little hope for the future. That's how the disciples felt after this death, feeling their hope for a better life had died along with Jesus. But he lives, and it makes a difference. Our hope for the future is restored. We have victory over the feeling of hopelessness, because the one who heals us and gives us a better life is himself alive. He lives to restore our hope.

WORSHIP SERIES: Life is full of either/or moments. Some matter more, and some matter less. One either/or moment is life-changing for every human being. Either Jesus is still dead, or Jesus rose from the dead. Since Jesus claimed he would rise from the dead, if he were to remain dead he would be both a failure and a fraud. If Christ had not been raised, we are still in our sin. But Christ is risen! It makes all the difference! He lives! The season of Easter is a 50 day celebration of that fact.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Wolfe
Music: *His Way Band*, Mike & Emily Krill

Acknowledgments

Setting Four from Christian Worship
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For Worship Next Week

Worship theme: Alive: My Good Shepherd
Bible Readings: Acts 2:42-47, 1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10
Hymns: 551, 552, 553

Order of Worship



Opening Song: House of the Lord

Phil Wickham

The band leads. The congregation may join in the refrains.

We worship the God who was. We worship the God who is.
We worship the God who evermore will be.
He opened the prison doors. He parted the raging sea.
My God, He holds the victory

**Refrain (x2): There's joy in the house of the Lord.
There's joy in the house of the Lord today
And we won't be quiet. We shout out Your praise!**

We sing to the God who heals. We sing to the God who saves.
We sing to the God who always makes a way.
'Cause He hung up on that cross then He rose up from that grave.
My God's still rolling stones away. **Refrain x2**

We were the beggars, now we're royalty.
We were the prisoners, now we're running free.
We are forgiven, accepted, redeemed by His grace.
Let the house of the Lord sing praise! X2 **Refrain (x3)**

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: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

Praise Response: My Jesus

Anne Wilson

The band leads. The congregation my join in the refrains.

Are you past the point of weary? Is your burden weighing heavy?
Is it all too much to carry? Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus
Do you feel that empty feeling? 'Cause shame's done all its stealin'
And you're desperate for some healin' Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus

Refrain: He makes a way where there ain't no way.

Rises up from an empty grave. Ain't no sinner that He can't save.

Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus.

His love is strong and His grace is free.

And the good news is I know that He

Can do for you what He's done for me

Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus.

And let my Jesus change your life. Hallelujah, Amen, Amen!

Who can wipe away the tears from broken dreams and wasted years
And tell the past to disappear? Oh, Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus.
And all the wrong turns that you would go and undo if you could?
Who can work it all for your good? Let me tell you about my Jesus. **Refrain**

Who would take my cross to Calvary? Pay the price for all my guilty?
Who would care that much about me? Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus. **Refrain**

Hallelujah, Amen, Amen! Hallelujah! Let my Jesus change your life.

THE WORD OF GOD

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

O God, by the humiliation of your Son, you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; 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

Acts 2:14a, 32-41

The message of Christ crucified and risen gives the certain hope of forgiveness to sinners.

¹⁴Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd...³²God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. ³³Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. ³⁴For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, “ ‘The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand ³⁵until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.” ’

³⁶“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

³⁷When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

³⁸Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

⁴⁰With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Peter 1:17-21

We know our home is in heaven, but until Jesus brings us there we live here as pilgrims heading towards that home.

¹⁷Since you call on a Father who judges each person’s work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. ¹⁸For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ²⁰He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Jesus restored the hope of two disciples as he explained the Scriptures.

¹³Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶but they were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

¹⁹"What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²²In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

²⁵He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³²They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

³³They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated.

Children's Devotion

Song: Goodness of God

Bethel Music & Jenn Johnson

The band leads. The congregation may join in the refrains.

I love You, Lord for Your mercy never fails me.
All my days, I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head.
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God!

**Refrain: 'Cause all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good.
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God**

I love Your voice. You have led me through the fire in darkest night.
You are close like no other. I've known You as a Father.
I've known You as a Friend and I have lived in the goodness of God. **Refrain**

Your goodness is running after, it's running after me.
With my life laid down, I surrender now. I give You everything.
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me. **Refrain x2**

Sermon

Based on Luke 24:13-35

"Find Hope in Jesus' Proof of Life"

Please stand after the sermon.

THANKSGIVING

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be seated.

Offering



 Connect Card

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.



 Give Online

Song: Gratitude

Brandon Lake

The band leads. The congregation my join in the refrains.

All my words fall short. I got nothing new. How could I express all my gratitude?
I could sing these songs as I often do. But every song must end and You never do.

**Refrain: So I throw up my hands and praise You again and again.
'Cause all that I have is a hallelujah. Hallelujah!
And I know it's not much but I've nothing else fit for a King.
Except for a heart singing hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

I've got one response. I've got just one move.
With my arm stretched wide I will worship You. **Refrain**

So come on, my soul. Oh, don't you get shy on me. Lift up your song!
'Cause you've got a lion inside of those lungs. Get up and praise the Lord! X 3
Refrain x2

Please stand.

Prayer of the Church

M: Loving God and Lord, give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

C: **Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.**

M: Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

C: **Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.**

M: Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

C: **Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.**

M: Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

C: **Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

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.

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.**

Shine, Jesus, Shine

Graham Kendrick

The band leads. The congregation may join in the refrains.

Lord the light of your love is shining. In the midst of the darkness shining.
Jesus light of the world shine upon us, set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me!

**Refrain: Shine, Jesus shine, fill this land with the father's glory.
Blaze, spirit blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth your word, Lord and let there be light!**

Lord, I come to your awesome presence from the shadows into your radiance.
By the blood I may enter your brightness.
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness. Shine on me! **Refrain**

As we gaze on your kingly brightness so our faces display your likeness.
Ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me! **Refrain**

Silent Prayer and Announcements

Monthly WELS Connection Video

WEEK OF APRIL 19, 2026

Sat, 4/18	9:00 am Marriage Retreat at St Croix National Golf Course 5:00 pm Worship (Gruetzmacher Team)
Sun, 4/19	8:00 am Worship (Crowder Usher Team) 9:15 am Adult Bible Study/JAM 10:30 am Worship (Wohlers Usher Team) 11:30 am Quarterly Congregational Meeting 5:00 pm Area WELS Youth Night
Mon 4/20	6:30 pm Church Council
Tue, 4/21	9:30 am Heroes' Coffee Club 5:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting
Wed, 4/22	9:00 am Chapel 5:30 pm Praise Group 5:30 pm Catechism 6:15 pm Choir Practice 7:15 pm Men's Chorus
Thurs, 4/23	9:45 am Group Bible Study 11:30 am Parish Nurse Office Hours 6:00 pm Bible Basics
Sat, 4/25	5:00 pm Worship with Communion (Sinclair Team) 6:15 pm Adult Volleyball
Sun, 4/26	8:00 am Worship with Communion (Crowder Usher Team) 9:15 am Adult Bible Study/JAM 10:30 am Worship with Communion (Roeller Usher Team)

GIVING IN FAITH

Current: \$13,570.95

Missions: 585.15

We pray God leads us to generous giving. Give online at salemlutheran.org/give.

NEWS AND NOTES

Looking to get outside? Salem can help! We're looking for a few more people who would be interested in driving our snazzy new lawnmower this summer. If you're interested, please email Gordy at gerickson@salemlutheran.org.

Summer Hosts Needed for up to two families to house college students doing ministry work for us this summer. All candidates are students from Bethany Lutheran College or Martin Luther College. Hosts should have a separate room for the student. Host families receive a stipend of \$600 for the summer. If you would like to know more, please speak to Outreach chairman Matt Dodge or one of the pastors.

April Letters are Here for Prayer Partners! Pick up your letters in the white mailbox in the church entry. If you don't have a letter, please still leave a letter for your student!

Wednesday (April 22nd) is Administrative Professionals Day! Be sure to stop in and say hi to the amazing women who help keep Salem running! Thank you Abigail, Jess, Jenny, and Debbie for all that you do. "You the real MVP" - Kevin Durant

The Dorn Family has chosen to stay and serve with us at Salem. We praise God for their talents and their excitement to continue building our ministry in Stillwater. We encourage you to read their letter in the full newsletter.

Dan Bredendick received a call to serve as principal at St. Mark's in Eau Claire. Please pray him and his wife Kristi as they deliberate where best to serve God's people. You are encouraged to reach out to him and his wife to discuss it and support them in the upcoming days!

IN OUR PRAYERS

- *For renewed hope in the face of pain, struggle, doubt, or fear.*
- *For peace among nations and protection to those who serve and protect us in the military, law enforcement, and emergency services.*
- *For healing for the hurting, help to those in need, companionship to the lonely, and for God to use each of us as part of His answer to this prayer.*

For the full announcements, please visit our website salemlutheran.org/worship or scan the QR code to subscribe!



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 with diaper-changing tables are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance.
- ✦ Our sanctuary is equipped with a "loop" system for hearing assistance. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position or ask an usher for a headset.
- ✦ You will find a connection card in your pew. Please share names, contact information, and prayer requests.
- ✦ 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 donate you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.
- ✦ Our services are streamed live on our YouTube channel. If you would prefer not to be on camera, please sit in the seats located beneath the balcony.

For those with young children

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing, pray, and grow with us in our services.

We provide a few special worship aids and helps for families:

- ✦ Children's bulletins & activity bags are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- ✦ If you or your child needs a quiet space, you can use the fireside room down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is streamed live on a TV in the room.
- ✦ On Sunday mornings, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for the children's message. Parents are welcome too!

**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.**

