

The People of God Gathered to Worship As
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WEST SALEM

March 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, our gifts are small next to all that you have given us. Take our gifts, LORD, and make them holy, so that they may help to feed the hungry, grow the church, and share your Light with a world lost in darkness. Amen.

Closing Hymn

Though I May Speak
#335 Presbyterian Hymnal

Benediction

Song of Sending

LORD, You Have Come to The Lakeshore
v. 1 #377 Presbyterian Hymnal

Pastor: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

The Postlude

Prelude – *Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me*

Welcome

Prayer Requests

Call to Worship

Leader: People of God, the Prodigal Walks Among Us

People: Faced with their own sin, they changed their ways, returned to the fold.

Leader: People of God, we ARE the Prodigal.

People: We have been lost in sin and doubt, and struggle to return.

Leader: So let us sing the Praises to our God, who welcomes the lost ones home.

People: Let us Praise the LORD!

Opening Hymn *We Are God's People*
v. 1, 2, 4 #399 Celebration Hymnal

Prayers of the People and the 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Let us greet one another as forgiven sinners
with the peace of Christ:

*“May the Peace of our LORD Jesus Christ be with you!
And also, with you.”*

Hymn of Illumination

Thy Word
v. 1 #184 Celebration Hymnal

First Scripture Reading

Luke 15: 1-3, 11-24 – See Insert

A Moment with the Children – When it's Time to Apologize

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 15: 25-32 - See Insert

Prayer Of Illumination

Sermon – Hearing the Apology - Pastor Dan McCurdy

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we are a sinful people. We struggle to be who you call us to be, we constantly fall short of your expectations, and we find ourselves all too often becoming more who the world expects us to be. We have not done what we are called to do, and often we do the things we are called to avoid. We cling to the ways we wrong others, and the ways in which we have been wronged, rather than allowing the gap to be bridged. LORD, we believe, help our unbelief, and hear us as we raise our silent prayers up to you.

Moment of Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
And to the Holy Ghost.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen, Amen.**

Affirmation of Faith

(The Apostles Creed)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He 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 catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Presentation of Tithes, Offerings, and Gifts

The Gifts of God are all around us, our lives and our homes, our talents and our joys, our family and friends, and the greatest gift of all was the Salvation promised, the life of Christ seeking to end our division from God and each other. When we give, we do not do so to purchase anything... for the gifts of God were already given. Instead, we give in imitation of our LORD, offering what we have to support others, and to be ourselves the gift that God gives the World, so let us worship God with our Giving.

Offertory – *Jesus of Nazareth, Savior and King*

First Scripture Reading

Luke 15:1-3,11-24

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³So he told them this parable: ¹¹Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.' So he divided his assets between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to his senses he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 15: 25-32

²⁵"Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

**Nursery Available – 4k and under only
Not staffed**

**Coffee and Cookies
Fellowship time in the Fellowship Hall
9:30-10:00 am**

March 30, 2025 Worship Team	
Liturgist	Jenni Logging
Musicians	Caroline Sells Greg Meeuwssen
Sound Room	Josiah Wolbrink
Choir & Handbells Director	Vicki Arndt
Usher	Fred Miller

Tithes and Offerings

Donations can be mailed to:

**Presbyterian Church of West Salem
PO Box 861
West Salem, WI 54669**

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Tabitha Circle

***Bring your crafts, sack lunch and join us!
The first and third Monday of each month
11:30-2:30 pm***

***Exercise Group
Not April 1st***

**Tuesdays and Fridays
9:00 to 10:00 am
Fellowship Hall**

Voting – April 1st

The ongoing mission of The Presbyterian Women is to support the Salvation Army and WINN (What I Need Now) by collecting needed items (lists are on tables and Lamplighter. All items can be placed in the purple tote at the back of the sanctuary. Money donations are accepted as well.

***Handbells Rehearsals
Rehearsal on April 10th
No rehearsal on Thursday, April 3rd
or April 17th***

***Choir Rehearsals
Wednesday, April 2nd after Lenten Service
Rehearsal on April 10th
No rehearsal on April 17th***

**Community Dinner
April 23rd
5pm – 6pm**

**Our Savior's Food Pantry
Each family receives coupons for dairy, bread and \$10 for meat. Hunger Task Force is where our weekly volunteers shop at. Open Saturdays 10 am to Noon.
Thank you for your donations of food and money.**

**Lenten Soup Supper
April 2nd
5:30 pm**

**Lenten Service
April 2nd at 6:30 pm**

**Janice and Jerry Seeger are retiring
From the Garden – New Volunteers Needed
Thank you Janice and Jerry!!**