

# Salem United Methodist Church

Second Sunday in Lent March 1, 2026

WELCOME

PRELUDE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (based on John 1 and 1 Corinthians 15:22)

Leader: In the beginning was the Word,

**People: And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

Leader: Through Christ, the Word became flesh and made his home among us.

**People: In Adam all die, but in Christ are made alive!**

Leader: Come, lift high the cross!

**People: We come to worship the One who gives life, love, and hope to the world!**

\*OPENING MUSIC

“Lift High the Cross” #159

UNISON PRAYER (in unison): **God of life and love, by your Word made flesh, you broke the power of sin and death, and through your cross and resurrection you speak love stronger than fear. By your Spirit, open our hearts and minds, that we may hear Christ’s voice, believe your gospel, and follow in the way of self-giving love. Amen.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 1:1-5, 14 NRSV

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

MESSAGE

“Lift High The Cross”

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

We believe this is God’s table, and all are welcome. We invite you to join us in receiving God’s gifts through the grace of our Savior, Jesus Christ. If you prefer prepackaged wafer/juice, please ask an usher.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION: **Merciful God, we confess that we have chosen selfishness over selflessness, darkness over light, and fear over trust. Too often we have ignored the message of the cross, forgetting that Jesus came not only to forgive our sins, but to save us from them. Forgive us, Lord. Turn our hearts again toward your**

**wondrous love, and reshape us by the example of Christ, who gave himself for us all. Amen.**

WORDS OF PARDON

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (pp. 15-16)

THE LORD’S PRAYER (in unison): **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. Amen.**

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

“The Old Rugged Cross” #504

\*DOXOLOGY

#95

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

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND COMMITMENT (in unison): **Eternal God, we thank you for your precious gift of our Savior and for feeding us at your holy table. Remind us of the saving and redeeming power of Jesus’ sacrifice. With grateful hearts, we offer to you ourselves, our gifts, and our shared ministry. May we take up our cross and follow Jesus daily. In Christ’s holy name we dedicate this offering. Amen.**

\*CLOSING MUSIC

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory” #295

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Irish Blessing

**May the road rise to meet you. May the wind always be at your back. May the sun shine warm on your face. The rain fall soft on your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.**

\*POSTLUDE

## SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IN THE WORLD

*Live stream notice: We are blessed to be able to live stream and record our 10:45 a.m. worship service. Anyone in the sanctuary during that time may appear on camera as part of the service and consents to filming. Our camera is directed at the front of the sanctuary. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Stacey.*

Our Call to Worship, Unison Prayer, and Prayer of Confession are taken with permission from “Why Did Jesus Have to Die? The Meaning of the Crucifixion” resources from Resurrection Church.

