



Salem Mennonite Church

A Congregation of
Mennonite Church USA

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southchurchsd.org

April 5, 2026

I. GOD CALLS US INTO PRAISE

Prelude Variations on 'O Sons and Daughters' – arr. Willan; Johnson; Leavitt

Choral Call to Worship

Arise and Shout! – English, arr. Allen

Call to Worship (*from Isaiah 26:19*)

Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise.

You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy!

For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Invocation

Opening Hymn

This Joyful Eastertide – HWB #276

Accompaniment arranged by A.L. Page

Greeting and Welcoming Each Other

Confession and Assurance (Psalm 30)

I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up
and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;

you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.

For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."

By your favor, O LORD, you made my mountain stand strong;
when you hid your face, I was dismayed.

To you, O LORD, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy:

"What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the grave?

Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?

Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me! O LORD, be my helper!"

You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;

you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,

that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent.

O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever

II. HEARING JESUS, THE LIVING WORD

Children's Time

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 25:1-9 (ESV); Matthew 28:1-14 (ESV)

Sermon

God's Love Story

III. RECEIVING THE SPIRIT, JOINED IN CHRIST'S BODY

Offertory Doxology with Alleluias (see insert)

Announcements and Offerings

- **Today's Worship offering:** Mennonite Central Committee
- **Today's Sunday school offering:** Salem Sunday School
- **Children's Offering:** Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

Congregational Sharing & Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (*sins*)

IV. RETURNING TO GOD'S SERVICE AS NEW CREATURES

Closing Hymn

Christ the Lord is Risen Today – HWB #280

(vs. 1-3 parts, v. 4 unison) accompaniment arranged by C. Courtney

Benediction (Hebrews 13:20-21)

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Choral Benediction

Arise and Shout! – arr. Allen

Postlude

The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done – arr. Miles

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Norm Kaufman; **Musicians:** Debra Schmeichel (organist); Chancel Choir (special music); Barb Yoder (pianist); Donna Ries, Brittney Kempf, Cheryle Gering (trumpets), Janet Balzer (French horn), Paul Balzer (trombone), Ben Carlson (tuba); Cheryle Gering, Brooklyn Ries, Sharla Unruh, Heather Haggerty, Cindy Graber (handbells); **Greeters:** Linda Graber and Monte Waltner; **Coffee:** Young Adult Class

THE CHURCH AT WORK

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, April 7, 7:30 p.m. – Prayer & Fasting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85365395504>

- **Meeting ID:** 853 6539 5504 **Passcode:** prayer2020
- One tap mobile +13462487799,,85365395504# US (Houston)
- Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 **Meeting ID:** 853 6539 5504

Wednesday, April 8, 11:30 a.m. – Freeman Network for Justice & Peace
At the Freeman Public Library

NEXT SUNDAY, April 12, 2026

Speaker: Spencer Bradford; **Worship Leader:** Everett Waltner; **Greeters:** Linda Graber and Vernetta Waltner; **Musicians:** Debra Schmeichel (organist); Men's Choir (special music); **Coffee:** Young Adult Class; **Scriptures:** Isaiah 29:11-24; Psalm 112; James 1:1-8; Matthew 5:1-16

Worship Offering: Church General Fund

Sunday School Offering: Central Plains Mennonite Conference

Children's Offering: Weekend School Lunch Bag Program

COMING EVENTS

Monday, April 13, 7:30 p.m. – Deacon Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 14, 7:00 p.m. – Christian Formation Meeting

Tuesday, April 21, 7:00 p.m. – Worship Planning Meeting

COMMUNITY & BEYOND

Volunteers needed during Schmeckfest (April 10 & 11). To volunteer, go to Schmeckfest.com and click on the "sign up to volunteer" button or contact Janet Balzer 605-310-1644

Reminders for Kitchen workers at Schmeckfest have been emailed to you, using the address from the yearbook. If you did not receive a reminder, please check your junk email, or talk to Jenelle Miller if you are unsure of your kitchen job.

Freeman Academy continues to have a need for volunteers in various areas.

Building and Grounds, including preparation for Schmeckfest

Front Office: phone coverage, computer and other tasks

Dorm: weekend staff coverage, meals, and transportation

For these needs, contact Brice Kauffman or Charity Ortman in the school office at (605) 925-4237.

Schmeckfest Country Kitchen is asking for donations of food items for April 10 and 11. Poppysseed rolls, fruit pockets, kuchen, pumpkin rolls, jam, horseradish, and summer savory sell especially well. Donated food items for the Country Kitchen may be brought to Sterling Hall and should be labeled. Thank you!

Et Cetera Shoppe is urgently seeking volunteers for weekly positions. In particular, we are looking for at least one, if not two, people to assist with tagging children's clothing on Tuesday mornings, and tagging household items on Friday mornings. Volunteering on a weekly committee does not mean that you can never miss your shift - we all have vacations and doctors' appointments - but if you're a person who loves a dependable routine, this might be the perfect job for you! We are also seeking a volunteer to display new-tagged household items each week. Please prayerfully consider if this is the moment when you should join our team of volunteers. The need is growing more urgent!

FRHS Hospital Auxiliary is having its annual fund drive during April. The donations are used for those "little extras" that make the residents feel special and loved. Donations can be given to Dawn Stahl or sent to Marlene Herman at PO Box 364, Freeman, SD 57029

A giant THANK YOU to the generosity shown during the Holy Week Services. We are able to send \$3276 to the White River Cheyenne Mennonite Church to help with the overwhelming cost of their property insurance, totaling over \$9000. As we presented this to Suzette, she was overwhelmed and so appreciative. Also, thank you for welcoming Suzette with open arms and hearts. She came away feeling blessed by you. Many thanks! Blessings upon blessings to you, Pastor Jill Hofer, on behalf of House Church of Freeman

Sunday Morning Worship – 9:30am/Sunday School – Following Worship
Vernetta Waltner, Administrative Assistant (southchurch@goldenwest.net) 925-4553
Spencer Bradford, Pastor 919-808-2024/spencerbradford42@gmail.com

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures

here below: alleluia, alleluia! Praise him a-

bove, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:

alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,

alleluia, alleluia!

Thomas Ken, 1674; alt.

LASST UNS ERFREUEN L.M.al.
Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne, 1623
Tune from the *English Hymnal*, used by permission of Oxford University Press.

Easter Lilies

In loving memory of Irene & Harold Mutchelknaus from their children

In loving memory of Dr. Ernest & Elsie Hofer and Merle & Gloria Miller
from Dawn Stahl

In loving Memory of Jerry Graber & Ryan Graber, in honor of Rachel Graber
from their family

In loving memory of Irene Gross from Jake Gross, Jr.

In loving memory of Melvin & Betty Schmeichel, Johnny & Mabel Waltner, and
Charley & Celia Fliginger from Rodney & Vernetta Waltner & family

In loving memory of Ray & Rosie Hofer, Clarence & Gertie Graber,
and Jackson Vetch from David & Cindy Graber family

In loving memory of the Ries Brothers, Karl & Murray, from the Ries family

In loving memory of Marvin & Jane Ries from the Ries family

In loving memory of Lemoyne Ries and Karen Cressman from their family