



SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Sunday, February 21, 2021

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer. **Amen.** God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Fountain of living water, **pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 1: 1-8, 20-23

The First Reading is from the 1st chapter of Genesis.

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let

there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

²⁰And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." ²¹So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

PSALM: Psalm 23 (Read responsively)

¹The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²**The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

GOSPEL: Mark 1: 12-15

The Gospel according to St. Mark.

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near, repent, and believe in the good news."

HYMN: BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR

Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, Truly I'd serve thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!

Glory and honor, Praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be thine!

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE SERMON

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.
**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**
**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**
He will come again 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.**

PRAYERS

Response to: "Hear us, O God" **Your mercy is great.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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 and ever. Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

We celebrate the presence of God in bread and wine. All are welcome to receive this gift.

BLESSING

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity. **Amen.**

SENDING

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Worship! Please remember **masks are required and we will be observing social distancing.** **Worship seating is available in the sanctuary and the basement**, with 2 larger family spaces for our families with young children in the upstairs Sunday School room. As you arrive, you will receive a bag with a bulletin, Communion elements and anything else that may be needed for the Service. Ushers will seat you to assure we observe social distancing.

Advent-To-Go Bags are still available. If you haven't received one, but would like one, please ask an usher.

To All The Healthcare
Workers On the
Front Lines Of The
Coronavirus Pandemic:



THANK YOU!

[lessonlearnedinlife.com](https://www.lessonlearnedinlife.com)

Operation Gratitude is our “Lent Project” this year. In the last year, those in our healthcare systems have given tirelessly of themselves and we would like to give them a small token of our thanks. We will be collecting items to include in “**Thank You Baskets**” for the staff in local hospitals and care facilities. **Suggestions of items include: individually wrapped snacks of granola bars, candy bars, Cliff bars, individual-sized bags of dried fruit and nuts, etc. and K-cups (coffee, tea, hot chocolate).** Snack items can be brought to worship on Sunday mornings or dropped off during the week. Please contact Pastor Stina to arrange drop-off (570-374-9544). If you would like to make a financial donation so that we can fill in the gaps, that would be wonderful as well. **Place it in the offering plate as you enter the sanctuary or mail to: Salem Lutheran Church; 899 Salem Road; Selinsgrove, PA 17870. Please mark your donation “Thank You Baskets”.** Thank You for helping us thank the healthcare workers in our area!

Readers are needed! Please contact Pastor Stina if you would like to volunteer to read and she will provide you with the readings. Currently, there is no sign-up sheet in the vestibule due to COVID.

Prayer Chain: Prayer Chain requests should be given to Susan Athey - **570-374-9505** or email: **sjdsathey77@gmail.com** through March 14th.

Remember, during this difficult time, Salem’s financial obligations remain the same. Your continued financial support, as you are able, is greatly appreciated. Offerings can be sent to the church through the mail (Salem Lutheran Church; 899 Salem Road; Selinsgrove, PA 17870) or can be made electronically through our website’s “Online Giving” tab. Thank you to all who have been continuing to support Salem Church!

If you have chosen to listen to the Service from the parking lot via our FM transmitter, **please turn to FM channel 87.9**. You may need to increase the volume of your radio quite a bit. This is normal for the radio transmitter. **Don’t forget to turn down your radio’s volume following the Service!**