

# SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Phone: 374 -9544

Website: [www.salemlutheranchurchselinsgrove.com](http://www.salemlutheranchurchselinsgrove.com)



**REV. KRISTINA SCHAEFFER, Pastor**

Organist: Kim Bolig

Secretary: Linda Maurer 570-374-0339  
lmaurer56@outlook.com

## TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

**Sunday, February 14, 2021**

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation. **Amen.** Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Holy God, you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.**

How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace. **Amen.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, 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: 2 Kings 2: 1-12

The First Reading is from the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of 2 Kings.

<sup>1</sup>Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. <sup>3</sup>The company of

prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”<sup>4</sup> Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho.<sup>5</sup> The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”<sup>6</sup> Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on.<sup>7</sup> Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan.<sup>8</sup> Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.<sup>9</sup> When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.”<sup>10</sup> He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.”<sup>11</sup> As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven.<sup>12</sup> Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

**PSALM: Psalm 50: 1-6** (Read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>The mighty one, God the Lord, has spoken; calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

<sup>2</sup>**Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, God shines forth in glory.**

<sup>3</sup>Our God will come and will not keep silence; with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.

<sup>4</sup>**God calls the heavens and the earth from above to witness the judgment of the people.**

<sup>5</sup>“Gather before me my loyal followers, those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice.”

<sup>6</sup>**The heavens declare the rightness of God’s cause, for it is God who is judge.**

**SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6**

The Second Reading is from the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of 2 Corinthians.

<sup>3</sup>Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.<sup>4</sup> In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.<sup>5</sup> For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake.<sup>6</sup> For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**GOSPEL: Mark 9: 2-9**

The Gospel according to St. Mark.

<sup>2</sup>Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them,<sup>3</sup> and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them.<sup>4</sup> And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.<sup>5</sup> Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”<sup>6</sup> He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.<sup>7</sup> Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!”<sup>8</sup> Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.<sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the

mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

### **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 "Let us pray" . . . . **Have mercy, O God.**

## 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

God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✠ keep you in peace. **Amen.**

## SENDING

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, we begin inside in-person Worship again. 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.

**Thank You** to everyone who participated in the Birthday Card Shower for Harry Kuster, Jr. last week. Harry was really surprised and thoroughly enjoyed all the cards and well-wishes he received ! Thank you!

**Prayer Chain:** From January 8 – March 14, Prayer Chain requests should be given to Susan Athey - **570-374-9505** or **[sjdsathey77@gmail.com](mailto:sjdsathey77@gmail.com)**.



**Ash Wednesday:** Lent begins early this year! **February 17<sup>th</sup>** is the beginning of Lent with the observance of Ash Wednesday. This year there will be multiple opportunities to receive ashes and Worship that day. Please join us for this time of worship! Worship opportunities are:

**Ashes-To-Go** will be offered in the parking lot from 5:30 – 8:30 am and 12:00 – 1:00 pm. This will be a safe, “no contact” distribution.

A **Drive-In Worship Service** will be held in the parking lot at 7:00 pm.

**At-Home Worship** liturgy and ashes will be available for pick-up before Ash Wednesday.

A **Virtual Ash Wednesday Service** will be posted on our website.

**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.

The February Newsletter has been emailed to those with internet access and mailed to those without. If you did not receive your copy, or cannot access it in your email, please notify the Secretary or Pastor Stina.

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 everyone who has been continuing to support Salem Church!

Are you donating items to *Community Aid*? Remember to support Salem Church by securely marking your bags and boxes with our name and “partner number”: **Salem Lutheran Church – Partner Number: 30119**. Since *Community Aid* has removed all bins, this is the only way Salem can receive credit (money) for clothing and shoe donations. All monies received is used to purchase food items for our *Meals for Seals* program. Thank you.

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!**