

# SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Phone: 374 -9544

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



**REV. KRISTINA SCHAEFFER, Pastor**

**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**Sunday, February 7, 2021**

**Welcome to Salem's Drive-In Worship!** We will gather in our main parking lot each **Sunday morning at 10:30** (weather permitting). As we gather for Worship, here are the procedures and guidelines for Worship:

- 1). Please tune your radio to FM station 87.9.** Music will begin at 10:00 am. Please tune-in to get your settings ready prior to the beginning of Worship. You may need to increase the volume of your radio quite a bit. This is normal for the radio transmitter.
- 2).** Everyone will receive a bag containing everything you need for worship. The ushers will also collect your offerings.
- 3). Don't forget to turn down your radio's volume after the Service!** Due to the settings of the transmitter, most radios need to be higher than normal volume for the Service!

## **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. **Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 40: 21-31

The First Reading is from the 40<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah.

<sup>21</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? <sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; <sup>23</sup>who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. <sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. <sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. <sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? <sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. <sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. <sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

## PSALM: Psalm 147: 1-11, 20c (Read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

<sup>2</sup>**The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem, and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

<sup>3</sup>The Lord heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

<sup>4</sup>**The Lord counts the number of the stars and calls them all by their names.**

<sup>5</sup>Great is our Lord and mighty in power; there is no limit to God's wisdom.

<sup>6</sup>**The Lord lifts up the lowly, but casts the wicked to the ground.**

<sup>7</sup>Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make music upon the harp to our God,

<sup>8</sup>**who covers the heavens with clouds and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.**

<sup>9</sup>God provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they cry.

<sup>10</sup>**God is not impressed by the might of a horse, and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,**

<sup>11</sup>but finds pleasure in those who fear the Lord, in those who await God's steadfast love.

<sup>20c</sup>Hallelujah!

## SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 9: 16-23

The Second Reading is from the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter of 1 Corinthians.

<sup>16</sup>If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! <sup>17</sup>For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. <sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the

gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. <sup>19</sup>For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

## **GOSPEL: Mark 1: 29-39**

The Gospel according to St. Mark.

<sup>29</sup>As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. <sup>32</sup>That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. <sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." <sup>38</sup>He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

## **HYMN: *WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS***

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear –  
All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged – Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness – Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge – Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you; You will find a solace there.

## **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

Welcome to our Drive-In Service! **Drive-In Worship Services will continue at least through February 7<sup>th</sup>.** We will gather in the parking lot at 10:30 each Sunday morning (weather permitting). We hope you will be able to join us! **Please remember to turn your radio's volume down after Worship and before you change the station.** The FM transmitters require a louder volume on most radios than regular radio stations. Online Services will continue on our website: **[www.salemlutheranchurchselinsgrove.com](http://www.salemlutheranchurchselinsgrove.com)** and will be available beginning every Sunday morning. Devotions mailed weekly, will also continue for those who do not have access to the internet.

**A SURPRISE BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER** is being held on **February 10<sup>th</sup>** for Harry Kuster, Jr. to celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Please send a card & well wishes to Harry at: **275 Pine Brook Road, Selinsgrove, PA 17870.** Please spread the word to other congregation members, family and friends who do not attend drive-in services and remember....**this is a SURPRISE!**

**THANK YOU** to Wayne Musser and Dick Kuster for plowing the church parking lots this week! We appreciate your hard work that allows us to continue our drive-in services!

**Council Meeting** will be held on **Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm** via *Zoom*.

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

**Thank You** to everyone who donated non-perishable food items for our "Quarter-&-A-Can" collection the last two weeks. Your generosity is appreciated by all those served by *The Kitchen Cupboard*.

**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.

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. Thank you.