



SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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REV. KRISTINA SCHAEFFER, Pastor

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS - Sunday, January 3, 2021

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy. **Amen.** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of goodness and lovingkindness, **we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through † Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **O God our redeemer, you created light that we might live, and you illumine our world with your beloved Son. By your Spirit comfort us in all darkness, and turn us toward the light of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31: 7-14

The First Reading is from the 31st chapter of Jeremiah.

⁷Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." ⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. ¹⁰Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." ¹¹For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy,

I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 147: 12-20 (Read responsively)

¹²Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,

¹³**who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you.**

¹⁴God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

¹⁵**God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.**

¹⁶God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.

¹⁷**God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?**

¹⁸The Lord sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.

¹⁹**God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.**

²⁰The Lord has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1: 3-14

The Second Reading is from the 1st chapter of Ephesians.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: John 1: (1-9) 10-18

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN: ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.
Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo
Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be, Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo
Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo
Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo.

THE SERMON by Robin Steele, Lay Worship Leader

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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

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

BLESSING

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day ☩ through the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

SENDING

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Stina will be on vacation from December 28 – January 3, 2021. Rev. Rick White, of Zion Lutheran Church in Kratzerville, will be covering all pastoral emergencies.

Drive-In Worship beginning January 10th! We recognize that it has been difficult to stay connected with one another during this time. And so I am excited to share with you that **starting January 10th**, we will be having **Drive-In Worship on Sunday mornings at 10:30** in our main parking lot, where you can hear the Service from your car’s FM radio. This will be in addition to our weekly online service every Sunday morning on our church website (www.salemlutheranchurchselinsgrove.com) and mailed devotions for those without internet access. We hope you can join us as we begin the New Year in worship together.

Dear Salem Family,

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generous Christmas gift. I am so blessed to serve with you all here at Salem. I look forward to being together in 2021! Thank you again!

*Blessings,
Pastor Stina*

Special Thanks to Lay Worship Leader, Robin Steele, for presenting the Sermon today.

Special Thanks to Charlie & Elaine Benner for hand-delivering our Christmas cards and 2021 offering envelopes this year. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated!

“The WELCA is sending out a **great big ‘Thank You’** for the amazing response to this Christmas’ *Star Tree*. The gifts were all above and beyond and the families were very appreciative. May you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year!”

~ *Eileen Stauffer*

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.