

SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Phone: 374 -9544

Website: www.salemlutheranchurchselinsgrove.com



REV. KRISTINA SCHAEFFER, Pastor

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Sunday, January 31, 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. **Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18: 15-20

The First Reading is from the 18th chapter of Deuteronomy.

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” ¹⁷Then the Lord replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

PSALM: Psalm 111 (Read responsively)

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

²**Great are your works, O Lord, pondered by all who delight in them.**

³Majesty and splendor mark your deeds, and your righteousness endures forever.

⁴**You cause your wonders to be remembered; you are gracious and full of compassion.**

⁵You give food to those who fear you, remembering forever your covenant.

⁶**You have shown your people the power of your works in giving them the lands of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice; all of your precepts are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forever and ever, because they are done in truth and equity.**

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever; holy and awesome is your name.

¹⁰**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who practice this have a good understanding.**

God’s praise endures forever.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 8: 1-13

The Second Reading is from the 8th chapter of 1 Corinthians.

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is

weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

GOSPEL: Mark 1: 21-28

The Gospel according to St. Mark.

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

HYMN: *BE THOU MY VISION*

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought by day and by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower,
Raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Light of my soul, after victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

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 7th.** 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** and will be available beginning every Sunday morning. Devotions mailed weekly, will also continue for those who do not have access to the internet.

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

Quarter-&-A-Can was held last Sunday and today. Thank you to everyone who donated non-perishable food items for the “Kitchen Cupboard”.

A SURPRISE BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER is being held on **February 10th** for Harry Kuster, Jr. to celebrate his 90th 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 and friends who do not attend drive-in services and remember...this is a **SURPRISE!**

Please give all items to be printed in the upcoming newsletter to the Secretary **TODAY** - 570-374-0339 or Imaurer56@outlook.com. Thank you!

Ash Wednesday: Lent begins early this year! February 17th 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!