

SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, August 22, 2021

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**
Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider, **help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen. Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✚ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Joshua 24: 1-2a, 14-18

The First Reading is from the 24th chapter of Joshua.

¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ^{2a}And Joshua said to all the people,

¹⁴“Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” ¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

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

PSALM: Psalm 34: 15-22 (Please read responsively)

¹⁵The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and God’s ears are open to their cry.
¹⁶**The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.**
¹⁷The righteous cry, and the Lord hears them and delivers them from all their troubles.
¹⁸**The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those whose spirits are crushed.**
¹⁹Many are the troubles of the righteous, but the Lord delivers them from every one.
²⁰**God will keep safe all their bones; not one of them shall be broken.**
²¹Evil will bring death to the wicked and those who hate the righteous will be punished.
²²O Lord, you redeem the life of your servants, and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 6: 10-20

The Second Reading is from the 6th chapter of Ephesians.

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

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

GOSPEL: John 6: 56-69

The Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this

bread will live forever.”⁵⁹ He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. ⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.” ⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

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

THE CHILDRENS' SERMON & BACKPACK BLESSING

THE SERMON

HYMN: *Blessed Assurance*

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain: This is my story, this is my song,
 Praising my Savior all the day long;
 This is my story, this is my song,
 Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain*

Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love. *Refrain*

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: "Lord, in your mercy" **Hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING

Go in peace. Share the story. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Outdoor Worship! Worship begins at **10:30 am** each Sunday. If you are more comfortable staying in your car, you are welcome to "drive-in" to participate in worship. **Masks are optional for outdoor services;** however, we ask that you observe social distancing. You will receive a 'Worship Bag' containing a bulletin, Communion elements & everything needed for Worship. **Offering Reminder:** White "Offering Buckets" can be found on the small stands at each end of the picnic pavilion. Please remember to place your offerings there. Thank you!

In case of rain, Worship will be held in the Sanctuary. Masks are optional **for those who are fully vaccinated** and for those who are unvaccinated, masks are **highly recommended**. We will continue to observe social distancing.

Today, Salem will be sending off our students, teachers, school administrators and all educators with our prayers and blessings.

Reading today's lessons is Charlie Benner.

Pastor Stina announced our ***Bible Madness*** winners during last week's Service. Christmas was the Top Bible Story chosen by Salem participants – 27–6 over Creation. **Congratulations to Leighton Aurand**, winner of the Jr. Division and **Joe Bogetti**, winner of the Sr. Division! Leighton received a custom *Salem On The Hill* backpack and Joe received a custom *Salem On The Hill* stadium blanket. Thank you to everyone who participated!

We have received word that the Selinsgrove food bank, *The Kitchen Cupboard*, has closed its doors. Our many years of Quarter-and-a-Can collections have come to an end. Thank you to everyone who faithfully supported this program over the years. Please watch the bulletins for future announcements regarding other programs where we will be putting our energies/support to best help our community .

Prayer Meeting will be held this **Wednesday, August 25th at 7:00 pm** in the church basement. Please give all Prayer Chain requests to Elaine & Charlie Benner (**ceben58@ptd.net**).

Ryan Moyer has completed his duties as Salem's Custodian and he prepares to head-off to college/training school. **Thank you, Ryan**, for your hard work and for keeping Salem "neat and tidy"! Donna Moyer has begun her duties as the new Salem Custodian. **Thank you, Donna!** We appreciate your dedication and hard work!