

SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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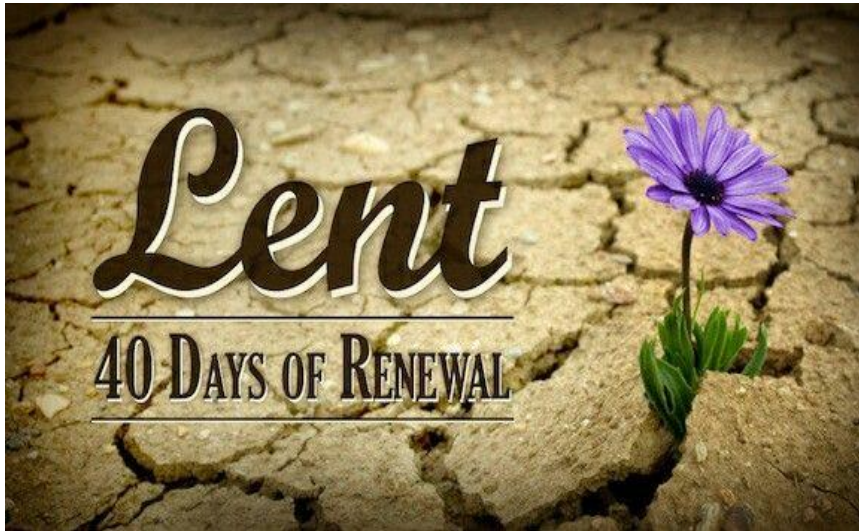
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FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Sunday, March 6, 2022

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.
Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us!

Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In † Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love. **Amen.**

HYMN: *O Lord, throughout These Forty Days*

O Lord, throughout these forty days, you prayed and kept the fast;
Inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.

Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed and fixed your mind above;
So teach us to deny ourselves that we may know God's love.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, 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: Exodus 17: 1-7

The First Reading is from the 17th chapter of Exodus.

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

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

PSALM: Psalm 95 (Please Read Responsively)

¹O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

²**Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

³For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

⁴**In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.**

⁵The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

⁶**O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**

⁷For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice!

⁸**Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,**

⁹when your ancestors tested me, and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

¹⁰**For forty years I loathed that generation and said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they do not regret my ways."**

¹¹Therefore in my anger I swore, "They shall not enter my rest."

SECOND READING: Romans 5: 1-11

The Second Reading is from the 5th chapter of Romans.

¹Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. ⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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

GOSPEL: John 4: 5-42

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 5th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in

Jerusalem." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." ²⁶Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

²⁷Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" ²⁸Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he? ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³²But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" ³⁴Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

³⁹Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

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

THE CHILDRENS' SERMON

THE SERMON: "The Woman at the Well"

HYMN: *A Mighty Fortress is our God*

A mighty fortress is our God,
A sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
He arms himself to fight on earth he has no equal.

No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored, He holds the field victorious.

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: "Merciful God," **receive 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

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, † bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN: *God of Grace, and God of Glory*

God of grace and God of glory, On your people pour your pow'r;
Crown your ancient Church's story; Bring its bud to glorious flow'r
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

Lo! The hosts of evil round us, Scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the living of these days, for the living of these days.

SENDING

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Everyone is asked to wear a mask and observe social distancing. Additional seating is available in the basement where the Service can be viewed via video live stream.

A SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held **NEXT SUNDAY, March 13th**. It is important for all members to be in attendance.



Daylight Saving Time Begins next Sunday! Remember to **turn your clocks AHEAD** Saturday night, March 12th !

Lent Bible Study – Join us on **Wednesdays at 1:00 pm** during the season of Lent, as we dive into Scripture. *Embracing the Uncertain: A Lenten Study of Unsteady Times*. Together we will explore 6 stories of Jesus as he walks toward Jerusalem in an uncertain world, not so different from our own. Question? Please contact Pastor Stina.

Adult Sunday School is held every Sunday morning in the church basement from 9:30 – 10:00 am. Join us as we open the Scriptures and learn with, and from, one another!

Prayer Chain – Susan Athey is handling all Prayer Chain calls & reports now through March 13th. Please contact Susan (sjdsathey77@gmail.com) with all Prayer Chain requests. Thank you.

Readers are needed. If you would like to volunteer to read the Sunday lessons, please contact Pastor Stina. Readings and sign-up sheets have not been posted on the bulletin board due to COVID; however, Pastor Stina can provide you with the assigned readings. Thank you to all who have been volunteering.

Council Meeting will be held on Monday, March 14th at 7:00 pm.

Youth Egg Hunt – Keep watching your bulletins for updated information on plans for the Youth Egg Hunt this year.

LOOKING AHEAD – HOLY WEEK

Sunday, April 10 – Palm Sunday Worship – 10:30 am

Thursday, April 14 – Maundy Thursday Worship – 7:00 pm

Friday, April 15 – Good Friday Worship – 7:00 pm

Sunday, April 17 – Easter Sunday -

Sunrise Service w/Communion – 6:45 am

Adult Sunday School – 9:30 am

Worship w/Communion – 10:30 am

LENT PROJECT

This year's Lenten Project centers around Disaster Relief. We will join other congregations in our Synod and in the Susquehanna Interfaith Network for disaster response by creating "Flood Buckets". These buckets are filled with practical items to help with clean-up. They are given to families who have experienced major flooding. Each bucket costs approximately \$50 to fill. We will be buying the contents in bulk to save money and because the items in the buckets are very specific as to type and size.

Salem's Council has issued a challenge to the Congregation:

Raise enough money to fill at least 25 buckets!

Look for donation buckets to appear in the sanctuary!

If you have clean 5-gallon buckets **with lids**, please save them for our Lent Project!

