

SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, September 12, 2021

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless. **Amen.** Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God our comforter: **like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50: 4-9a

The First Reading is from the 50th chapter of Isaiah.

⁴The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my

cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ^{9a}It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

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

PSALM: Psalm 116: 1-9 (Please read responsively)

¹I love the Lord, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication,

²**for the Lord has given ear to me whenever I called.**

³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me; I came to grief and sorrow.

⁴**Then I called upon the name of the Lord: “O Lord, I pray you, save my life.”**

⁵Gracious is the Lord and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

⁶**The Lord watches over the innocent; I was brought low, and God saved me.**

⁷Turn again to your rest, O my soul. for the Lord has dealt well with you.

⁸**For you have rescued my life from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;**

⁹I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

SECOND READING: James 3: 1-12

The Second Reading is from the 3rd chapter of James.

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

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

GOSPEL: Mark 8: 27-38

The Gospel according to St. Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. ³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to

rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” ³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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

THE CHILDRENS' SERMON

THE SERMON

HYMN: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be. *Refrain*

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. *Refrain*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *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

People of God, you are Christ’s body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The Holy Trinity, one God, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING

Go in peace, the Living Word dwells in you. **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.

Reading today's lessons is Brenda Stranko.

The Funeral Luncheon Committee wishes to thank all who brought food for the Dorothy Whitmer funeral luncheon. Empty dishes may be picked-up on the picnic table or the table in the church basement, depending on where church is held due to the weather.

Thank You to everyone who participated in *Wings and Fries Night* last night - those who prepared food as well as those who purchased tickets and attended!

Council Meeting will be held **tomorrow, Monday, September 13th** at 7:00 pm.

During the month of September, we will be supporting *Meals for Seals*. At the moment, their biggest need is **gallon-sized Zip-Top plastic bags**. Let's see how many we can collect to support this important local ministry! They are not collecting packaged meal bags or other donations at this time.



Bring your furry, feathered and friendly friends to be blessed on **Sunday, September 26 from 12:00 – 2:00 pm** in the picnic grove parking lot. A blessing for pets, owners and a treat will be offered.

On **October 3rd**, we will be celebrating the **Confirmation of Gabriel Schaeffer**. As has become our tradition at Salem, you are invited to highlight your favorite Bible verse and put your name next to it, in the Bible that we will be presenting to Gabriel. Help him to see his Church Family represented as he reads Scripture for years to come.