

SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday, April 18, 2021

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy. We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared with strangers. Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear. Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness. Send us companions on our journey as we share your life. Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life. To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 3: 12-19

The First Reading is from the 3rd chapter of Acts.

¹²[Peter] addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. ¹⁷“And

now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

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

PSALM: Psalm 4 (Please read responsively)

¹Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; you set me free when I was in distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

²**“You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; how long will you love illusions and seek after lies?”**

³Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful; the Lord will hear me when I call.

⁴**Tremble, then, and do not sin; speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**

⁵Offer the appointed sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord.

⁶**Many are saying, “Who will show us any good?” Let the light of your face shine upon us, O Lord.**

⁷You have put gladness in my heart, more than when grain and wine abound.

⁸**In peace, I will lie down and sleep; for you alone, O Lord, make me rest secure.**

SECOND READING: 1 John 3: 1-7

The Second Reading is from the 3rd chapter of 1 John.

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. ⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

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

GOSPEL: Luke 24: 36b-48

The Gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence. ⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.”

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

HYMN: *I Know That My Redeemer Lives!*

I know that my Redeemer lives!
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever-living head!

He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save;
He lives exalted, throned above;
He lives to rule his Church in love.

He lives to grant me rich supply;
He lives to guide me with his eye;
He lives to comfort me when faint;
He lives to hear my soul's complaint.

He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart;
He lives all blessings to impart.

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: "Hear us, O God" **Your mercy is great.**

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

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESSING OF OPERATION: GRATITUDE BASKETS

SENDING

Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to Worship! Please remember **masks are required and we will be observing social distancing.** **Worship seating is available in the sanctuary and the basement,** with 2 larger family spaces for our families with young children in the upstairs Sunday School room. As you arrive, you will receive a bag with a bulletin, Communion elements and anything else that may be needed for the Service. Ushers will seat you to assure we observe social distancing.

Thanks again to everyone who contributed to *Operation Gratitude*! Pastor Stina and her Team prepared the baskets on Tuesday. They will be blessed today before they are sent out to our local hospitals, nursing homes and care facilities.

New Salem Church Email Address: We have a new church email address! You can send a message to the church at the following address: **salemlutheranselinsgrove@gmail.com.**

Reading today's lessons is Brenda Stranko.

Quarter-&-A-Can will be held **today and NEXT SUNDAY**. Your donations of non-perishable food items are important during these difficult times so our local food banks can help local families in need. Please bring your donations and place them in the boxes at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you!

Prayer Meetings are resuming! They will be held the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the church basement. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please wear your mask and social distancing will be observed. **The next Prayer Meeting will be on Wednesday, April 28th at 7:00 pm.**

Prayer Chain requests may be given to Elaine and Charlie Benner (ceben58@ptd.net).

Spring Clean-Up: Outdoor Spring Clean-Up will be held on **Saturday, May 15th beginning at 8:00 am.** Please bring your shovels, rakes, trimmers, wheelbarrows and other lawn care tools and help spruce-up the church grounds and picnic grove. There will be NO indoor clean-up and due to COVID, no lunch will be served. The more who come out to help, the less time it will take! The rain date is May 22nd at 8:00 am.

Readers are needed! Please contact Pastor Stina if you would like to volunteer to read and she will provide you with the readings. Currently, there is not a sign-up sheet in the vestibule due to COVID.



Summer Worship! Spread the word to family, friends and congregation members! Beginning **Sunday, June 13th**, we will be moving our **Worship Services outside to the picnic grove for the Summer** (weather permitting)! Worship will continue to be at **10:30 am**, and like last summer, everyone is encouraged to bring your own lawn chairs to sit in. You are also welcome to "drive-in" if you are more comfortable staying in your car.

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 mailed to the church (Salem Lutheran Church; 899 Salem Road; Selinsgrove, PA 17870) or made electronically through our website's "Online Giving" tab. **Thank you!**