

SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Sunday, February 20, 2022

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children. We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected. We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves. We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome. Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us, and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.**

Rejoice in this good news: In † Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God. **Amen.**

HYMN: *Lift High the Cross*

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim Till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod, Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*

Led on their way by this triumphant sign, The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. *Refrain*

All newborn soldiers of the Crucified Bar on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain*

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, As thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain*

So shall our song of triumph every be; Praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 45: 3-11, 15

The First Reading is from the 45th chapter of Genesis.

³Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. ⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’” ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

PSALM: Psalm 37: 1-11, 39-40 (Please Read Responsively)

¹Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

²**For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass fade away.**

³Put your trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and find safe pasture.

⁴**Take delight in the Lord, who shall give you your heart’s desire.**

⁵Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord, and see what God will do.

⁶**The Lord will make your vindication as clear as the light and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**

⁷Be still before the Lord and wait patiently. Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

⁸**Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**

⁹For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who hope in the Lord shall possess the land.

¹⁰**In a little while the wicked shall be no more; even if you search out their place, they will not be there.**

¹¹But the lowly shall possess the land; they will delight in abundance of peace.

³⁹**But the deliverance of the righteous comes from you, O Lord; you are their stronghold in time of trouble.**

⁴⁰You, O Lord, will help them and rescue them; you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,

because in you they seek refuge.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15: 35-38, 42-50

The Second Reading is from the 15th chapter of 1 Corinthians.

³⁵But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” ³⁶Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

⁴²So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. ⁵⁰What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

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

GOSPEL: Luke 6: 27-38

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 6th Chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁷“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you. ³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. ³⁷“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

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

THE CHILDRENS' SERMON

THE SERMON

HYMN: *All Creatures of our God and King*

All creatures of our God and King, lift p your voice with us and sing;
Alleluia! Alleluia! O burning sun with golden beam
And silver moon with softer gleam:
Oh, praise him! Oh, praise him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O rushing wind and breezes sot, O clouds that ride the winds aloft:
Oh, praise him! Alleluia! O rising morn, in praise rejoice,
O lights of evening, find a voice.
Oh, praise him! Oh, praise him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

O flowing waters, pure and clear, make music for your Lord to hear.
Oh, praise him! Alleluia! O fire so masterful and bright,
Providing us with warmth and light,
Oh praise him! Oh, praise him! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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: "God of grace" **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

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: *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

T'was grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me; His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

SENDING

Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Due to the current COVID situation in our area, **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.

Next Sunday, February 27th, is Camp Mt. Luther Sunday! We are thrilled to welcome Chad Hershburger, Camp Director, as our guest Pastor. Join us as we hear about the wonderful ministry that is happening at Camp Mt. Luther and how you can get involved!

As we celebrate Camp Mt. Luther next Sunday, you are invited to wear your favorite camp shirt or gear (hiking boots, etc.) as part of the celebration!

Reading today's lessons is Ellie Schaeffer.

Thank You to everyone who made donations to our college students/military personnel. They all received gift cards and cards of encouragement for Valentine's Day. This is a great way to remind them that their Salem Family is keeping them in their thoughts and prayers.

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.

Prayer Meeting will be held, weather permitting, this **Wednesday, February 23 at 7:00 pm.**



Ash Wednesday – March 2nd - There will be 2 Worship opportunities as we celebrate Ash Wednesday. On March 2nd at **12:00 noon**, we will gather in the sanctuary for a brief Service of the Word and imposition of ashes. At **7:00 pm** that evening, we will gather in the sanctuary for our traditional Ash Wednesday Service. Both Services will offer Holy Communion and ashes.

What are “**Ashes-On-The-Go**” ? The ashes come to you! If you would like ashes to be brought to you at home or your workplace, contact Pastor Stina, sign-up for a time and she will bring ashes to you! You can email Pastor Stina: stinaschaeffer@gmail.com

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!

LENT PROJECT

This year our 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.

The Salem Council is issuing a challenge to the Congregation:

Raise enough money to fill at least 25 buckets!

Look for donation buckets in the sanctuary starting in Lent!

BUCKET COLLECTION

We are currently collecting 5-gallon buckets **with lids** to be used for our “Flood Buckets” Lent Project. If you have access to empty buckets through work or a hobby, please save them for us!

**RIGHT NOW, WE ARE ONLY COLLECTING
BUCKETS & LIDS !**

