

# SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Sunday, January 23, 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: *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness***

Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light;  
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease,  
Calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.

Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word;  
Praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand;  
From this well comes living water quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10

The First Reading is from the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter of Nehemiah.

<sup>1</sup>All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. <sup>2</sup>Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup>He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. <sup>5</sup>And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. <sup>6</sup>Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. <sup>8</sup>So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. <sup>9</sup>And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. <sup>10</sup>Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

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

## PSALM: Psalm 19

<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

<sup>2</sup>**One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

<sup>3</sup>Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

<sup>4</sup>**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

<sup>5</sup>It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

<sup>6</sup>**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

<sup>7</sup>The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

<sup>8</sup>**The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

<sup>9</sup>The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever; the judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup>**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

<sup>11</sup>By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup>**Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

<sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

**<sup>14</sup>Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a**

The Second Reading is from the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of 1 Corinthians.

<sup>12</sup>For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. <sup>14</sup>Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup>But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup>If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup>The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” <sup>22</sup>On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup>and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; <sup>24</sup>whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup>that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup>If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. <sup>27</sup>Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup>And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup>Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup>Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31a</sup>But strive for the greater gifts.

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

## **GOSPEL: Luke 4: 14-21**

The Gospel according to St. Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>16</sup>When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup>and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: <sup>18</sup>“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, <sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” <sup>20</sup>And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup>Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

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

## **THE CHILDRENS’ SERMON**

## **THE SERMON**

**HYMN: *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise***

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

**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: *Now Thank We All Our God***

Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
Who, from our mother's arms, has blest us on our way  
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
And keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed.  
And free us from all harm in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,  
The Son, the Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,  
The one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;  
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

**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.

**Prayer Chain** – Susan Athey will be handling all Prayer Chain calls & reports now through March 13<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Susan ( [sjdsathey77@gmail.com](mailto:sjdsathey77@gmail.com)) for any additions. Thank you.

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

**College Care Packages:** Salem has 6 young adults attending college & 1 in the military. **Valentine's Day is coming SOON** and we want to send them special reminders that their Salem Family is thinking about & praying for them. The high cost of shipping packages makes it most cost-efficient to send them gift cards (*Wendy's, Dunkin', McDonald's, etc.*) with encouraging notes. **Please drop a monetary donation – AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** - in the *Support our College Students* containers on the table at the back of the sanctuary & on top of the sound system. Our college students are: Danielle Alba, Jessica Alba, Maegan Bogetti, Nathan Moyer, Ryan Moyer and Jordyn Nichols & our military personnel is Jake Hane. **PLEASE support our College & Military Students!**



**Prayer Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**, weather permitting. Everyone is invited to attend and pray for those in need.

**NEXT SUNDAY, January 30, is the deadline** for the February Newsletter. Please give all information for the newsletter to the Secretary ([lmaurer56@outlook.com](mailto:lmaurer56@outlook.com)) by the deadline. Thank you.

**Salem Council Members & Teams for 2022 are:**

Neil Klingler and Barry Heim (Co-Presidents)

Bob Stranko (Vice-President)

**Property:** Harry Aurand Jr., Art Gill & Barry Heim

**Finance:** Joe Bogetti & Harry Maurer

**Evangelism:** Doug Klingler & Paula Klingler-Alba

**Worship & Music:** Neil Klinger & Bob Stranko

**Social Ministry:** Ricky Bower & Judy Kuhn

**Education:** Braden Klingler



**CAMP MT LUTHER NEWS**

**February 4-5, 2022 - GROW in the Snow**

All youth in 6-12th grade and their youth leaders are invited to attend this synod youth retreat. The theme of this year's will be around scripture. Experience your Creator, play winter games and find refreshment in the peace of camp in winter. The retreat is from Friday night to Saturday afternoon, but there is an option for youth and leaders to come just for the day on Saturday. Cost is \$66 (whole program) or \$45 (Saturday only). Each registered group should provide one adult (21 or over) for every seven youth and at least one adult for each gender represented. Cabin assignments will be made based on available adults and number of youth attending. Contact Chad Hershberger at: [chad@campmountluther.org](mailto:chad@campmountluther.org) with questions.

A flyer and registration form is available here:

**<https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2022-Grow-in-the-Snow.pdf>**

## **Saturday, February 5, 2022 - Summer Preview Party and Camperson Meeting**

This year, we'll have a Summer Preview Party as part of our GROW in the Snow weekend and invite campersons to come to hear about the program offerings for 2022. Join us at 3:30 p.m. on February 5 at the Evergreen Center for the preview and then campersons will be given additional information to share with their congregations. Expect to be here for an hour and fifteen minutes. What's a camperson? A camperson is a liaison between camp and your congregations. They are ambassadors, regularly promoting camp news. Each synod congregation is asked to send a representative to this event to learn more about Mount Luther. Another benefit is that campersons will get Camel Bucks to the camp store for all those from their church who attend summer camp. We are also working to have an online component that you can join this meeting. Details coming soon.

## **Sunday, February 27, 2022 - Camp Mount Luther Sunday**

The Upper Susquehanna Synod Council designated that Transfiguration Sunday each year is "Mount Luther Sunday" to help promote outdoor ministries in the synod. Members of USS congregations are encouraged to celebrate outdoor ministries on February 27, 2022. Mount Luther is an extension of our ministry together and we hope all congregations will join in celebrating outdoor ministries by offering financial support, keeping the camp staff in prayer, and by participating in the numerous events and activities this ministry offers. Ideas to celebrate Camp Sunday are here:

**<https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Mount-Luther-Sunday-2022.pdf>**

If you have any questions about any of these items, please let us know. Thank you for your continued support of outdoor ministries.

Chad Hershberger  
Camp Mt. Luther Executive Director

## **UPCOMING LENT SERVICE PROJECT !**

We will be in need of **5-gallon buckets with lids**. If you have access to empty buckets through work or a hobby, **please save them for us!** This is just a hint, but keep watching future bulletins and newsletters for more information on this important Lent Service Project!

**WE ONLY NEED BUCKETS RIGHT NOW!**

