



SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Phone: 374 -9544

Website: www.salemlutheranchurchselinsgrove.com

REV. KRISTINA SCHAEFFER, Pastor
stinaschaeffer@gmail.com

Organist: Kim Bolig

Secretary: Linda Maurer lmaurer56@outlook.com

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Sunday, March 14, 2021

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer. **Amen.** God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Fountain of living water, **pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PSALM: 104: 1-4, 10-13 (Please read responsively)

¹Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, you are very great! You are clothed with majesty and splendor.

²**You wrap yourself with light as with a cloak and stretch out the heavens like a tent.**

³You lay the beams of your chambers in the waters above; you make the clouds your chariot; you ride on the wings of the wind.

⁴**You make the winds your messengers and flames of fire your servants.**

¹⁰You made the springs into rivers that flow between the mountains.

¹¹**All the animals drink their fill from them, and the wild donkeys quench their thirst.**

¹²Beside them the birds of the air make their nests; among the branches they lift their voice.

¹³**From your dwelling on high, you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your works.**

SECOND READING: Revelation 22: 1-5

The Second Reading is from the 22nd chapter of Revelation .

¹Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; ⁴they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

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

GOSPEL: John 3: 14-21

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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

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.

‘Twas 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 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

Let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity. **Amen.**

SENDING

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

+++++

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.

IMPORTANT CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: A Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, March 28th, following the Worship Service.** We will be voting on the proposed 2021 Budget and also voting for Council members. Copies of the proposed budget are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Please pick-up a copy and bring any questions to the meeting on the 28th. **You MUST be present to vote.** Drive-in Worship (using FM station 87.9 from the church parking lot) and voting are available if you are uncomfortable coming into the sanctuary.

Mid-Week Lenten Videos – This week for our spiritual practices video, we will be looking at praying with beads. There are small bags available at the church with beads and the prayers you will need to participate printed out. Please pick-up one either at Worship or contact Pastor Stina to have one delivered to your home.

Prayer Chain: Prayer Chain requests should be given to Susan Athey - email: sjdsathey77@gmail.com through April 1st .



Salem is getting creative!! This year, we will be doing a different kind of Egg Hunt! Due to current COVID restrictions and the instability of weather during the Spring months, we have decided to bring the Egg Hunt to YOU! **On March 27th Pastor Stina and I will be “EGGING” your house (if you’ll let us)!!** We plan to hide a few eggs and drop-off some Holy Week activities and a small craft. This is the link to sign-up for the Egg Hunt:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A044CA4A92DABF94-letsalem>

When signing up, in the comment section, please include where you would like the eggs hidden (front yard, back yard, etc.). Also include how many children will be there. **The sign-up will close THIS SATURDAY, MARCH 20th** to allow us time to prepare. **Please sign-up as soon as you are able.** If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Stina or myself and we will be happy to explain this event in more detail.

~ Jessica Moyer

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP – in the Sanctuary

(Drive-In Worship from the church parking lot is available for all Services - FM 87.9)

Sunday, March 28 – **Palm Sunday** Worship – 10:30 am

Thursday, April 1 – **Maundy Thursday** Worship – 7:00 pm (there will be no hand washing)

Friday, April 2 – **Good Friday** Worship – 7:00 pm

Sunday, April 4 – **EASTER** – Sunrise Service with Communion – 6:45 am
Worship with Communion – 10:30 am

Unfortunately, due to COVID, there will not be an Easter Breakfast this year.

To All The Healthcare
Workers On the
Front Lines Of The
Coronavirus Pandemic:



THANK YOU!

freemoveart.com

Operation Gratitude is our “Lent Project” this year. In the last year, those in our healthcare systems have given tirelessly of themselves and we would like to give them a small token of our thanks. We will be collecting items to include in “**Thank You Baskets**” for the staff in local hospitals and care facilities. **Suggestions of items include: individually wrapped snacks of granola bars, candy bars, Cliff bars, individual-sized bags of dried fruit and nuts, etc. and K-cups (coffee, tea, hot chocolate).** Snack items can be brought to worship on Sunday mornings or dropped off during the week. Please contact Pastor Stina to arrange drop-off (570-374-9544). If you would like to make a financial donation so that we can fill in the gaps, that would be wonderful as well. **Place it in the offering plate as you enter the sanctuary or mail to: Salem Lutheran Church; 899 Salem Road; Selinsgrove, PA 17870. Please mark your donation “Thank You Baskets”.** Thank You for helping us thank the healthcare workers in our area!

Newsletter Deadline: March 28th is the deadline for all items to be included in the April newsletter. Please give your articles/reports to Linda Maurer (lmaurer56@outlook.com) by the deadline.
Thank you!

Easter Food Baskets – If you know a family in need who would benefit from receiving an Easter food basket from SACC (Selinsgrove Area Christian Council), please contact Judy Kuhn (jkuhn@ptd.net). The following information is needed: name, phone number, number of adults in the home, and number and ages of children in the home. **The deadline to submit names is March 24th.**

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 no sign-up sheet in the vestibule due to COVID.

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!**

If you have chosen to listen to the Service from the parking lot via our FM transmitter, **please turn to FM channel 87.9**. You may need to increase the volume of your radio quite a bit. This is normal for the radio transmitter. **Don't forget to turn down your radio's volume following the Service!**