



## SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Phone: 374 -9544

Website: [www.salemlutheranchurchselinsgrove.com](http://www.salemlutheranchurchselinsgrove.com)

**REV. KRISTINA SCHAEFFER, Pastor**

[stinaschaeffer@gmail.com](mailto:stinaschaeffer@gmail.com)

Organist: Kim Bolig

Secretary: Linda Maurer [lmaurer56@outlook.com](mailto:lmaurer56@outlook.com)

### FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

**Sunday, March 21, 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, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in 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: Jeremiah 31: 31-34

The First Reading is from the 31<sup>st</sup> chapter of Jeremiah.

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says

the Lord. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

**PSALM: 65** (Please read responsively)

<sup>1</sup>You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; to you shall vows be fulfilled.

<sup>2</sup>**To you, the one who answers prayer, to you all flesh shall come.**

<sup>3</sup>Our sins are stronger than we are, but you blot out our transgressions.

<sup>4</sup>**Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there!**

**They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.**

<sup>5</sup>Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation,  
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans far away.

<sup>6</sup>**You make firm the mountains by your power; you are girded about with might.**

<sup>7</sup>You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

<sup>8</sup>**Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs; you make the dawn  
and the dusk to sing for joy.**

<sup>9</sup>You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water.  
You prepare the grain, for so you provide for the earth.

<sup>10</sup>**You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless  
its increase.**

<sup>11</sup>You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty.

<sup>12</sup>**May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy.**

<sup>13</sup>May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain;  
let them shout for joy and sing.

**SECOND READING: Hebrews 5: 5-10**

The Second Reading is from the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of Hebrews.

<sup>5</sup>Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; <sup>6</sup>as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

<sup>7</sup>In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup>Although he was a Son,  
he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup>and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal  
salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup>having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of  
Melchizedek.

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

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 3: 13-17**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup>John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. <sup>16</sup>And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup>And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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

### **HYMN: *Jerusalem, My Happy Home***

Jerusalem, my happy home,  
When shall I come to thee?  
When shall my sorrows have an end?  
Thy joys when shall I see?

O happy harbor of the saints,  
O sweet and pleasant soil!  
In thee no sorrow may be found,  
No grief, no care, no toil.

Thy gardens and thy gallant walks  
Continually are green;  
There grow such sweet and pleasant flow'rs  
As nowhere else are seen.

### **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**

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.

Reading today's lessons is Emma Moyer.

**Mid-Week Lenten Videos** – This week is the last in our online Spiritual Practices series. We will be looking at walking prayer.

**IMPORTANT CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** A Congregational Meeting will be held **NEXT SUNDAY, March 28<sup>th</sup>**, 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 next Sunday. **You MUST be present to vote.** Drive-in Worship and voting (using FM station 87.9 from the church parking lot) are available if you are uncomfortable coming into the sanctuary.



**A Reminder:** If you signed-up to have the Egg Hunt brought to you this year, be on the lookout for eggs to appear in your yard and a few “goodies” to be delivered to your home on **Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>!**

**Easter Food Baskets** – If you know a family in need who would benefit from receiving an Easter food basket from SACC, please contact Judy Kuhn ([jkuhn@ptd.net](mailto: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 this Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>.**

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



THANK YOU!

[lessonslearntoinlife.com](http://lessonslearntoinlife.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!

## **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.

**Prayer Chain:** Prayer Chain requests should be given to Pastor Stina: email: [stinaschaeffer@gmail.com](mailto:stinaschaeffer@gmail.com) through April 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

**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!**