

SALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Sunday, March 7, 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

Let us pray. **Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Exodus 17: 1-7

The First Reading is from the 17th chapter of Exodus.

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do

you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

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

PSALM: Psalm 93 (Read responsively)

¹The Lord is king, robed in majesty; the Lord is robed in majesty and armed with strength.

The Lord has made the world so sure that it cannot be moved.

²**Ever since the world began, your throne has been established; you are from everlasting.**

³The waters have lifted up, O Lord, the waters have lifted up their voice; the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

⁴**Mightier than the sound of many waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea, mightier is the Lord who dwells on high.**

⁵Your testimonies are very sure, and holiness befits your house, O Lord, forever and forevermore.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

The Second Reading is from the 1st chapter of 1 Corinthians.

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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

GOSPEL: John 2: 13-22

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will

consume me.”¹⁸The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?”¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”²⁰The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?”²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body.²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

HYMN: *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor’s rod and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might He arms himself to fight. On earth he has no equal.

No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God’s only Son, adored. He holds the fields victorious.

Though hordes of devils till the land all threat’ning to devour us,
We tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpow’r us.
Let this world’s tyrant range; In battle we’ll engage!
His might is doomed to fail; God’s judgement must prevail! One little word subdues him.

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

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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.

Altar flowers are presented today in loving remembrance of the birthdays of Yvonne and Orval Mull by Debbie & Ricky Bower, Patty & Jeff Roush and Dennis Mull.

Reading today's lessons is Judy Kuhn.

Council Meeting is scheduled for **TOMORROW, March 8th at 7:00 pm** via *Zoom*.

Mid-Week Lenten Videos - Please tune-in to Salem's *YouTube* channel to join Pastor Stina for a new Lenten video going live each Wednesday morning. Each week we will dive into a new spiritual or prayer practice. Videos can also be accessed from Salem's website – **www.salemlutheranchurchselinsgrove.com**. If you would like printed instructions, please contact Pastor Stina.

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 on 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*

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



THANK YOU!

(lessonclearmediville.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!

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.

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.**

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!**